

**3.**

**AMENDMENT DATED  
FEBRUARY 2, 1993**



"PATENT"

Applicant: R. McCartney et al ) Art Unit: 2504  
 Serial No.: 07/911,547 ) Examiner: H. Mai  
 Filed: 9 July 1992 ) Docket No.: A6213491  
 For: "A DIRECTIONAL DIFFUSER FOR A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY"

AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of  
 Patents and Trademarks  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
 FEB 23 1993  
 GROUP 2500

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on 2 October 1992, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

58

Kindly delete claims 1, 2 and 3.

Kindly amend claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 as follows:

In claims 4 and 5, at line 1, delete "Claim 3", and substitute therefor - - Claim 10 - -.

In claim 7, at line 1, delete "Claim 6", and substitute therefor - - Claim 10 - -.

Claim 9. (Amended) A display apparatus in accordance with Claim (3) 10 wherein at least one of said first and second lens arrays is rotated about an axis perpendicular to said liquid crystal panel in order to provide a slight misalignment between said lenslets and said liquid crystal panel.

Docket No. A6213491

1

2 February 1993

Kindly add new claim 10 as follows:

Claim 10. A display apparatus comprising:

a light source;

a liquid crystal panel mounted adjacent to said light source for receiving light from said light source; and

first and second lens arrays, each having a plurality of individual lenslets, disposed between said light source and said liquid crystal panel for providing a predetermined variation with viewing angle of light transmission from said light source through said lens arrays and said liquid crystal panel.

REMARKS

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his citation to the noted references and his accompanying remarks. While the cited references are certainly pertinent to the claimed invention, applicants respectfully disagree with the interpretation of the cited references by the Examiner and his conclusions drawn therefrom.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102 (a or b) as being clearly anticipated by Abileah et al or the cited IBM article. While not necessarily providing the same function, the structure of these references does appear to be similar to that of applicants' invention. In order to further prosecution of the application, claims 1-3 have been deleted

and claims 4 and 5 amended to depend from new claim 10.

In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 6-9 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Abileah et al or the IBM article in view of Hamada. Applicants have added new claim 10 which essentially includes the limitations of claims 1-3 and 6, resulting in a new claim for an apparatus having two lens arrays.

The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious, in view of Hamada, to add a second lens array to the structure of Abileah or IBM. In order to support a combination of references under 35 USC 103 there must be some suggestion for the combination. As the Hamada reference is concerned with a projection apparatus, there would be no suggestion to use the dual lens arrays of Hamada in the direct view apparatus of Abileah or IBM. Particularly since the dual lens array of Hamada is used to overcome a problem specifically associated with projection displays.


The two lens arrays of Hamada are used in a projection device to reduce the dimming at the outer edges. As such the dual lens arrays would not be suggested to the direct view display of Abileah or IBM.

In addition, at no point in any of the references is there any discussion of eliminating moire effects with appropriate selection of the relative pitch of the two lens arrays as specifically described and claimed by the applicants. Also, there is no discussion of rotating one of the

lens arrays with respect to the liquid crystal panel as specifically claimed in applicants' claim 9.

Based on the foregoing, applicants contend that claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10, as amended, are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dale E. Jepsen  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 32, 379

602/436-1336

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



In re application of: R. MCCARTNEY ET AL

Serial No.: 07/911,547

Group No.: 2504 ✓

Filed: 9 JULY 1992

Examiner: H. MAI

For: "A DIRECTIONAL DIFFUSER FOR A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY"

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL**

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 23 1993**

**GROUP 2500**

1. Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application

**STATUS**

2. Applicant is

☐ a small entity — verified statement:

☐ attached.

☐ already filed.

☒ other than a small entity.

"EXPRESS MAIL" Date of Deposit 2 FEBRUARY 1993

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

DALE E. JEPSEN

(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

[Signature]  
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

**4.**

**USPTO OFFICE ACTION  
DATED MAY 6, 1993**


**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

 Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
07/911,547	07/09/92	MC CARTNEY	A6213491

 DALE E. JEPSEN  
 HONEYWELL INC.  
 21,111 N. 19TH AVENUE, DV9L  
 PHOENIX, AZ 85027

BSH2

MATH EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2504	5

DATE MAILED: 05/16/93

 This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application  
 COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☐ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on 2/2/93 ☒ This action is made final.

 A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.  
 Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

## Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948.                   |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.                 | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.     | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> _____  |

## Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☒ Claims 1-3 have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.
4. ☒ Claims 4-6 & 10 are rejected.
5. ☒ Claims 7-9 are objected to.
6. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☒ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_ Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable, ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948).
10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner, ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved, ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
12. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received  
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

66

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Serial No. 911,547

-2-

Art Unit 2504

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4-10 have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claim 6 depends from claim 3 which has been canceled.

Therefore, claim 6 is not treated on the merits.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --  
(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Abileah et al ('041) or Yoshida et al.

The recited limitations of claims 5 and 10 are shown in Abileah et al's Figs. 6, 8, column 13, line 18 through column 14, line 44 or Yoshida et al's Figs. 3, 5.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject

Serial No. 911,547

-3-

Art Unit 2504

matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Abileah et al ('041) in view of Abileah et al ('783).

The '041 patent discloses in Figs. 6, 8 a display apparatus having first and second lens arrays with lenslets having a triangular cross section. The '041 patent lacks a teaching the lenslets having a semi-cylindrical shape.

The '783 patent teaches in Fig. 3 a lens array having lenslets disposed between a liquid crystal panel and a light source wherein the lenslets have semi-cylindrical shape for improving the brightness of the display device. Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person skilled in this art to modify the '041 patent by substituting the lens arrays with lenslets having semi-cylindrical shape for the lens arrays with triangular-cross-section lenslets for improving the brightness of the display as taught by the '783 patent.

Serial No. 911,547

-4-

Art Unit 2504

Claims 7 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon an objected claim which has allowable subject matter.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huy K. Mai whose telephone number is (703) 308-4874.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

69

*MM*  
Mai/ks  
April 26, 1993

*William L. Sikes*  
WILLIAM L. SIKES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2500

**5.**

**U.S. PATENT NO. 5,161,041**



US005161041A

**United States Patent** [19]

Abileah et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,161,041**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 3, 1992**

[54] **LIGHTING ASSEMBLY FOR A BACKLIT ELECTRONIC DISPLAY INCLUDING AN INTEGRAL IMAGE SPLITTING AND COLLIMATING MEANS**

[75] **Inventors:** Adiel Abileah, Farmington Hills; Charles Sherman, Royal Oak; Robert M. Cammarata, Sterling Heights, all of Mich.

[73] **Assignee:** OIS Optical Imaging Systems, Inc., Troy, Mich.

[21] **Appl. No.:** 514,737

[22] **Filed:** Apr. 26, 1990

[51] **Int. Cl.:** G02F 1/1335

[52] **U.S. Cl.:** 359/40; 359/49

[58] **Field of Search:** 350/334, 345; 359/40, 359/49

[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

4,171,874	10/1979	Bigelow et al.	350/345
4,616,295	10/1986	Jewell et al.	350/345
4,660,936	4/1987	Nosker	350/339 D
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

3M Scotch™ Optical Lighting Film Application Bulletin Thin Light Box, Preliminary Nov. 1988.

3M Scotch™ Optical Lighting Film General Theory, Preliminary Nov. 1988.

"Polarized Backlight for LCD" Technical (IBM) Disclosure Bulletin; vol. 33, No. 1B, Jun. 1990.

**Primary Examiner**—Stanley D. Miller

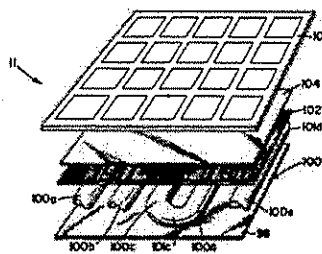
**Assistant Examiner**—Anita Pellman Gross

**Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Myers, Liniak & Berenato

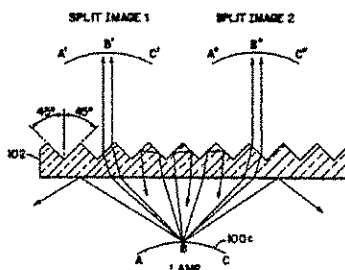
[57] **ABSTRACT**

An improved lighting assembly for a backlit electronic display includes an integrally formed image splitting/collimating lens for effectively enlarging the area illuminated by any one or part of one of the lamps of the source of backlighting. Through the use of the improved optical assembly described herein, there is provided a backlit electronic display characterized by fewer lamps, reduced heating, and vastly improved intensity of illumination per unit area in a lower profile package.

22 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



A-EYE



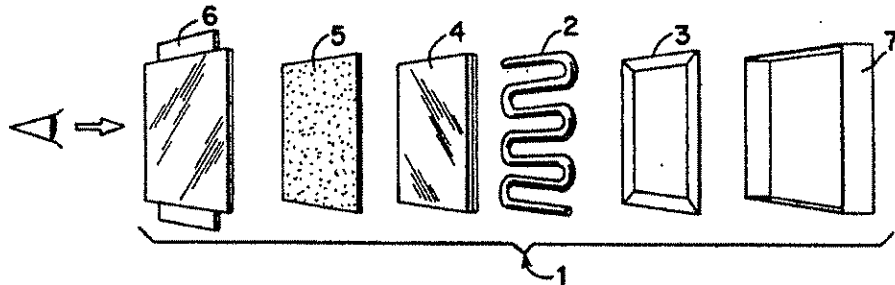
U.S. Patent

Nov. 3, 1992

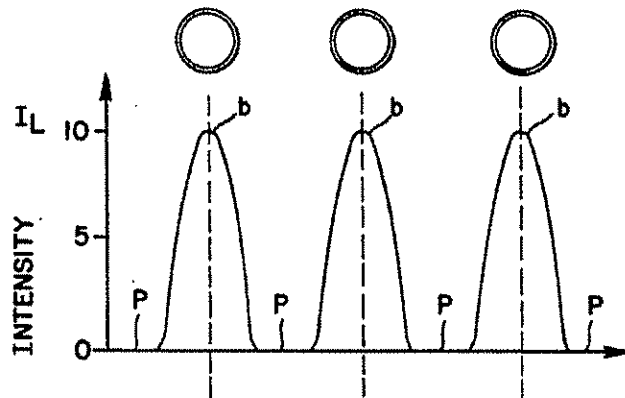
Sheet 1 of 4

5,161,041

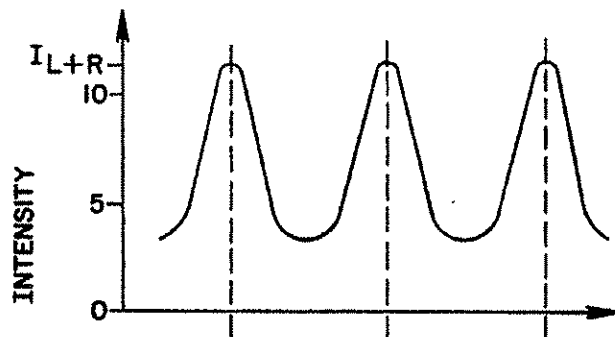
*Fig.1*



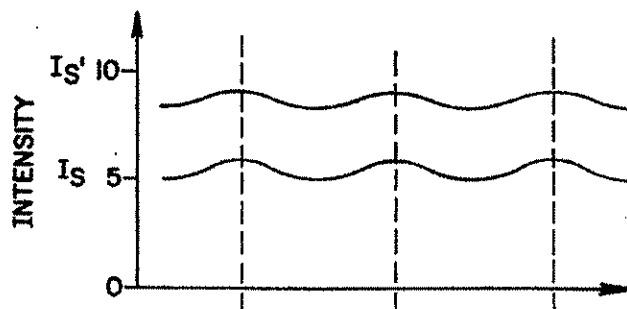
*Fig.2A*



*Fig.2B*



*Fig.2C*

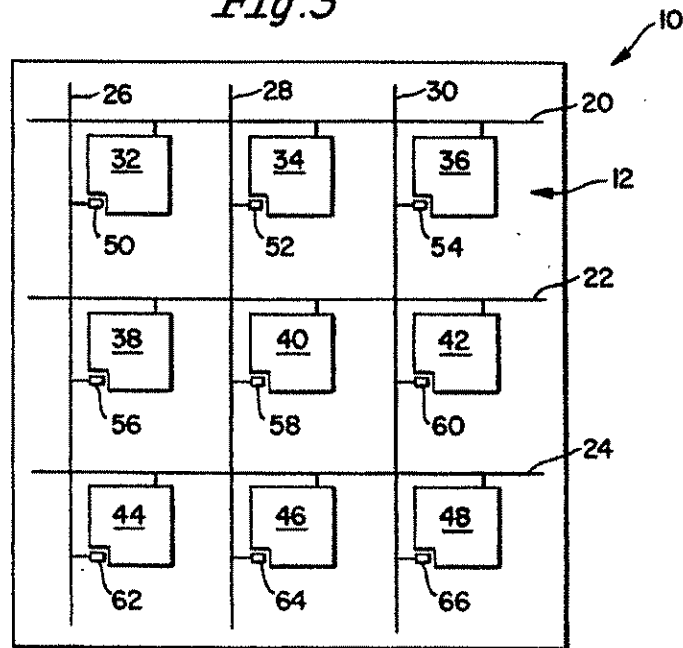
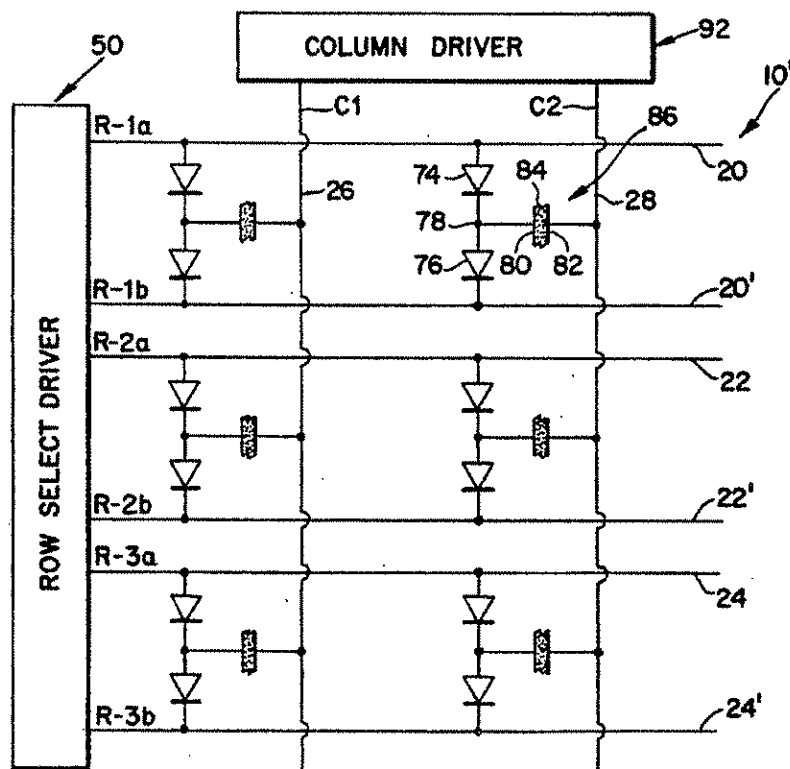


U.S. Patent

Nov. 3, 1992

Sheet 2 of 4

5,161,041

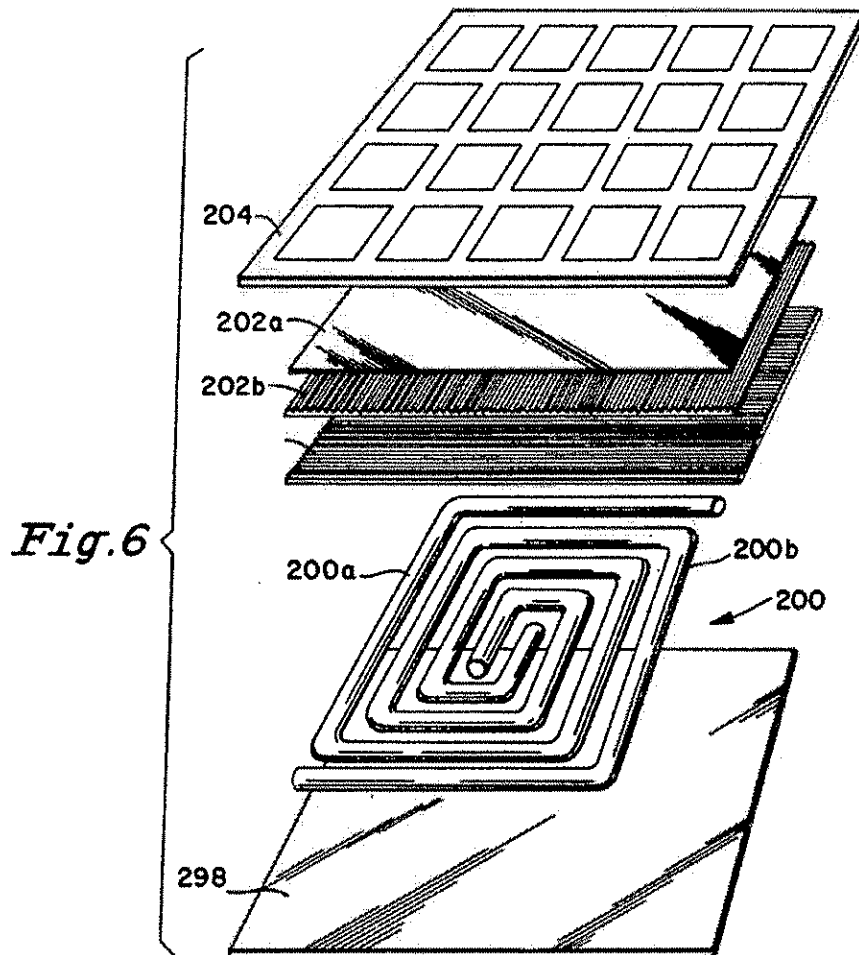
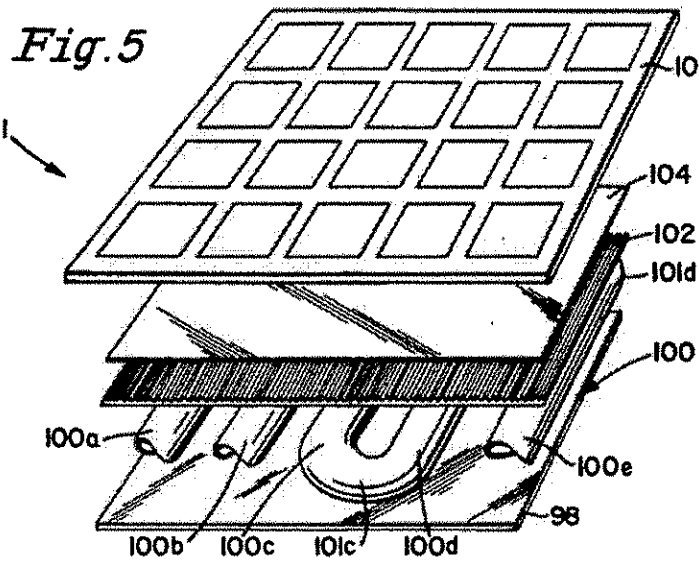
*Fig. 3**Fig. 4*

U.S. Patent

Nov. 3, 1992

Sheet 3 of 4

5,161,041



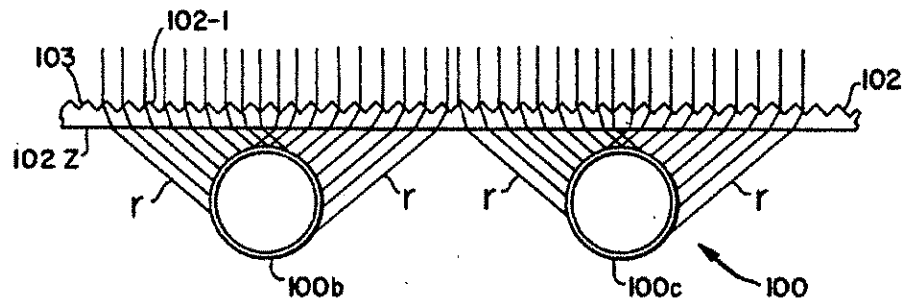
U.S. Patent

Nov. 3, 1992

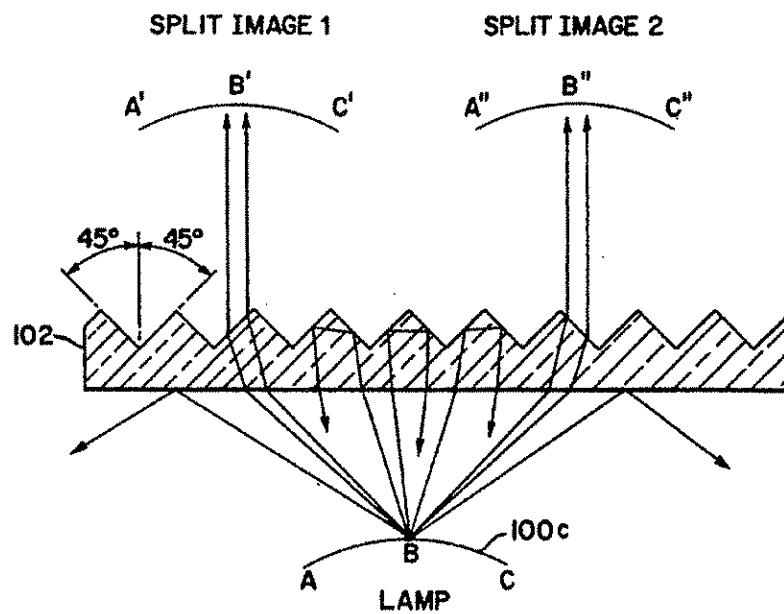
Sheet 4 of 4

5,161,041

*Fig. 7*



*Fig. 8*



5,161,041

1

# **LIGHTING ASSEMBLY FOR A BACKLIT ELECTRONIC DISPLAY INCLUDING AN INTEGRAL IMAGE SPLITTING AND COLLIMATING MEANS**

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The instant invention relates generally to the field of electronic two dimensional liquid crystal displays, which displays are adapted to provide either still or video images to a remotely positioned viewing audience. The instant invention more particularly relates to those adapted for military and avionic applications and which are specially designed to present a bright, uniform distribution of light to said viewing audience in a low profile, i.e., minimum depth assembly.

The unique and improved backlit module disclosed in the instant specification finds an important use in full color active matrix liquid crystal displays, particularly those adapted for military and avionic use. This module achieves about one order of magnitude improvement in a figure of merit (FOM) described by the function:  $FOM = (\text{lamp power/viewing angle}) * (\text{backlight thickness/lamp life})$ , which improvement has been achieved by decreasing the needed lamp power thereby resulting in an increase in lamp life. Additionally, the lighting arrangement set forth in the instant invention features a redundant configuration, intense illumination, uniform illumination, thermal control of the lamps and thin packaging.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

In recent years, a considerable amount of research has been conducted in an effort to develop a low profile (thin), full color, electronic display system which does not rely upon conventional cathode ray tube technology. In systems such as television receivers, computer monitors, avionic displays, aerospace displays, and other military-related displays, the elimination of cathode ray tube technology is desirable for several reasons, which reasons will be detailed in the following paragraphs.

More particularly, cathode ray tubes are typically characterized by extremely large depth dimensions and thus occupy a considerable amount of floor or counter space. As a matter of fact, the depth dimension may equal the length and width dimensions of the viewing screen. Also, because cathode ray tubes require an elongated neck portion to provide for the acceleration of an electron beam from the electron gun to the faceplate of the cathode ray tube, they are quite irregular in shape. Additionally, since cathode ray tubes are fabricated from relatively thick glass, they are inordinately heavy, extremely fragile and readily breakable. Finally, cathode ray tubes require a relatively high voltage power supply in order to sufficiently accelerate the electron beam and thus sustain the displayed image.

The reader can readily appreciate the fact that all of the foregoing problems experienced with or shortcomings of cathode ray tubes are exacerbated as the size of the viewing screen increases. Since the current trend, and in fact consumer demand, is toward larger screens; weight, breakability, placement, etc. represent significant commercial considerations. Accordingly, it should be apparent that cathode ray tubes are and will continue

2

to be inappropriate for those applications in which weight, fragility and portability are important factors.

One system which can eliminate all of the aforementioned shortcomings of the present day cathode ray tube is the flat panel liquid crystal display in which a matrix array of liquid crystal picture elements or pixels are arranged in a plurality of rows and columns. Liquid crystal displays may typically be either reflective or transmissive. A reflective display is one which depends upon ambient light conditions in order to be viewed, i.e., light from the surrounding environment incident upon the side of the display facing the viewer is reflected back to the viewer. Differences in the orientation of the liquid crystal material within each liquid crystal pixel cause those pixels to appear either darkened or transparent. In this manner, a pattern of information is defined by the two dimensional matrix array of darkened (or transparent) pixels. However, and as should by now be apparent, reflective liquid crystal displays cannot be used in a dark or low light environment since there is no light available for reflection off the viewing surface of the display.

Conversely, transmissive liquid crystal displays require the use of illuminating means such as a lamp array operatively disposed on the side of the matrix array of picture elements opposite the viewer. This illumination means or backlight may further include a backreflector adapted to efficiently redirect any stray illumination towards the matrix array of rows and columns of picture elements, thus ensuring that the displayed image is as bright as possible (given the lighting capabilities and characteristics of the backlighting scheme being employed). The instant invention is specifically directed to the field of backlit, high resolution liquid crystal electronic displays.

The characteristics of the backlighting scheme are very important to both the quality of the image displayed by the matrix array of picture elements of the liquid crystal display and the profile, i.e., the thickness dimension, of that liquid crystal display. Accordingly, a great deal of the aforementioned research in the field of said flat panel electronic displays has been dedicated to the design and fabrication of backlighting systems which optimize certain viewing and structural parameters of those flat panel displays. Characteristics which are acknowledged by experts as the most important in the design of optimized backlighting assemblies include: 1) uniformity across the large surface areas illuminated by the light provided by the backlight, i.e., the intensity of the light must be substantially the same at each pixel of the large area liquid crystal display; 2) high brightness illumination provided by the backlight thus yielding a sharp, readily readable image to a remotely positioned viewing audience; 3) a low profile so that a flat panel liquid crystal display is substantially flat and can be operatively disposed for viewing without occupying an undue amount of available space; 4) the overall design of the backlight which takes into consideration the number, configuration, and redundancy of lamps; 5) the heat effect caused by the number, configuration, redundancy and type of the lamps; and 6) the total power consumed by the lighting scheme which represents an extremely important consideration in hand held (portable) television units.

A number of different backlight configurations, all of which included a plurality of discrete optical components disposed between the plane of the source of backlit radiation and the plane of the matrix array of liquid

3

5,161,041

crystal pixels, have been designed in an effort to maximize each of the desirable characteristics recited hereinabove. For example, those of ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystal display backlighting have attempted to use light diffusers in an effort to achieve a more uniform distribution of projected light across the entire viewing surface of the liquid crystal display. This technique, while useful for improving the uniformity of projected light, deleteriously affected the intensity of that projected light resulting in light appearing soft or washed-out. Thus, additional lamps were required when such light diffusers were employed, resulting in an increased heating effect upon the display. Further, due to the fact that such light diffusers were, of necessity, positioned at an operative distance from both the source of backlighting as well as from the matrix array of liquid crystal pixels, the depth dimension or profile of the electronic, flat panel display was significantly increased.

A second technique employed to enhance the quality of the backlight (and hence the quality of the displayed image) is to operatively dispose a light collimating lens, such as a fresnel lens, between the source of the backlight and the matrix array of liquid crystal picture elements. This design expedient has the effect of producing an intense, sharp image from a minimal number of lamps, while simultaneously providing a high degree of uniformity of projected radiation across the entire viewing surface of even large area displays. However, due to the nature of collimated light, the viewing angle of a display equipped with such a light collimating lens is limited. Indeed, viewing of the displayed image is impossible from any angle other than directly straight-on. Accordingly, a backlit display which employs only a light collimator without a mechanism for increasing the viewing angle has limited commercial applicability, and is wholly inappropriate for the gigantic markets related to television and computer monitors. Additionally, collimating means, such as fresnel lenses, are characterized by an operative focal length. (The focal length is that distance from the light source at which said lens must be disposed in order to properly collimate light emanating from said light source.) Thus, the light collimator has the undesirable effect of increasing the profile of the liquid crystal display. Also, backreflectors are inappropriate for use with light collimating. This is because light reflected from the backreflector does not originate from a position which is at the focal length of the collimating lens. Hence, light reflected from said backreflector will not be collimated. This results in localized bright spots on the surface of large area displays, degrading the quality of the displayed image.

In an effort to achieve the advantages of both light collimation and light diffusion, routineers in the backlit, flat panel liquid crystal display art have attempted to incorporate both a discrete light diffuser and a discrete light collimator into the same backlit liquid crystal display. Optically speaking, the results have been satisfactory only to the extent that the quality of the displayed image is relatively sharp, intense and uniform; while said image is visible over a relatively wide viewing angle. However, in order to maximize the optical effect of utilizing the diffuser-collimator combination, it was necessary to operatively space the collimator from the source of backlighting radiation, and then to space the diffuser from both the plane of the collimator and the plane of the matrix array of liquid crystal pixels. The result was a substantial increase in the profile, i.e., the depth dimension of the liquid crystal display. Indeed, in

4

typical liquid low profile crystal display systems which include both a light collimator and a light diffuser, the distance from the light source to the diffuser is approximately 17 millimeters. It can thus be seen that by including both diffusing and collimating optical components, the profile of a typical flat panel liquid crystal display is significantly increased, thus eliminating one of the principle advantages of liquid crystal display systems; i.e., compactness. One method of reducing the depth profile and providing the foredescribed improved optical effect is disclosed in copending United States patent application No. 473,039, filed Jan. 31, 1990, assigned to the assignees of the instant application, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

While the commonly assigned and copending application improved the profile and optical characteristics of prior art electronic displays having a given figure of merit for intensity of illumination per unit area, that application did not deal with improvements in the lighting efficiencies so as to reduce the number of lamps, the thermal effects of those lamps and the power consumption of those lamps. Accordingly, there still exists a need in the flat panel liquid crystal display art for an improved lighting/optical arrangement which provides a bright, uniform image of high contrast and capable of being viewed over a wide viewing angle, while maintaining a narrow profile and minimizing power consumption and thermal inconveniences.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

There is disclosed herein an improved backlit electronic display and specifically a liquid crystal display adapted to provide an image to one or more remotely positioned observers. The improved liquid crystal display is defined by a matrix array of rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements spacedly disposed from one side of a light source, and means for collimating light operatively disposed between said light source and said rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements. The improvement in the display of the instant invention residing in the incorporation therein of an image splitting means adapted to enlarge the area effectively illuminated by said light source, said image splitting means and said collimating means forming an integral image splitting/collimating lens. In this manner, a bright, uniform distribution of light is provided in a low profile display.

The display preferably includes a backreflector which is operatively disposed on the side of the light source opposite the image splitting/collimating lens. The display preferably further includes means for diffusing light emanating from the light source, the light diffusing means operatively disposed between said image splitting/collimating lens and said rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements. In one preferred embodiment, the light source is configured as a single, elongated, serpentine, tubular lamp arranged in a series of elongated parallel lobes. In a second, equally preferred embodiment, the light source may be configured as a plurality of discrete tubular lamps, said lamps defining a given lighting configuration. Regardless of whether the light source defines a lighting configuration formed of a single elongated tubular lamp or a plurality of discrete lamps, said image splitting/collimating lens will comprise a substantially planar thin film sheet having multi-faceted prisms formed on one surface thereof.

5,161,041

5

The prisms formed on said image splitting/collimating lens are operatively disposed so as to provide an image splitting effect in one dimension of the sheet. In alternative embodiments, the image splitting/collimating film may either be laminated onto a substrate or actually formed thereupon. The substrate is thin and transparent and formed of glass, a ceramic or a synthetic plastic resin. Regardless of the material from which the substrate is fabricated, the direction in which the image splitting/collimating lens is adapted to split radiation corresponds to the longitudinal dimension of the light source. More specifically, rays of light emanating from said light source are refracted on each side of said image splitting/collimating lens to provide two similar images thereof. Of course, the distance between the two similar images is controlled by the operative spacing of said image splitting/collimating means from said light source. In a preferred embodiment, the image splitting/collimating means is operatively spaced from said light source so that said two similar images are operatively disposed immediately adjacent to one another.

It must be emphasized that the improved backlighting arrangement of the instant invention will operate with equal effectiveness in passive displays as well as in active matrix electronic displays. In such active matrix liquid crystal displays, each picture element will include a pair of electrodes having liquid crystal material operatively disposed therebetween and at least one threshold device. The threshold devices may either be diodes or field effect transistors. Where two threshold devices are employed, they are electrically coupled together at a common node in non-opposing series relationship. The threshold devices preferably comprise diodes formed from deposited thin film layers of amorphous silicon alloy material of p-i-n construction.

In one final embodiment of the invention, the light source can be defined by a plurality of lamps operatively disposed in two orthogonal directions. In such an embodiment, it is necessary to employ a set of two image splitting/collimating lenses. One of those image splitting/collimating lenses will be operatively disposed on top of the second and offset by 90 degrees therefrom. This combination of image splitting, light collimation and light diffusion provides for a thin and efficient assembly which yields a uniform distribution of light over the large surface areas of the display.

These and other objects and advantages of the instant invention will become apparent to the reader from a perusal of the Detailed Description Of The Invention, the Drawings and the claims, all of which follow immediately hereinafter.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view illustrating the component elements typically present in a liquid crystal display adapted for use in military and avionic applications;

FIG. 2A is a graph of light intensity distribution in which the intensity of illumination is plotted on the ordinate and the horizontal position across the viewing surface of an electronic display of the type illustrated in FIG. 1 is plotted on the abscissa;

FIG. 2B is a graph of light intensity distribution in which the intensity of illumination is plotted on the ordinate and the horizontal position across the viewing surface of an electronic display of the type illustrated in FIG. 1, including a reflector, is plotted on the abscissa;

6

FIG. 2C is a graph of light intensity distribution in which the intensity of illumination is plotted on the ordinate and the horizontal position across the viewing surface of an electronic display is plotted on the abscissa, and illustrating in curve I a conventional backlighting arrangement and in curve I' the improved backlighting arrangement of the instant invention;

FIG. 3 is a stylistic front elevational view of the matrix array of rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements of the active matrix embodiment of the electronic display of the instant invention schematically illustrating the manner in which the threshold switching elements are operatively disposed between the address lines and one of the picture element electrodes;

FIG. 4 is an equivalent circuit diagram of the active matrix embodiment of the array of FIG. 3, illustrating the relationship between the liquid crystal picture elements and the anode-to-cathode connected diodes by which individual ones of the picture elements schematically depicted in FIG. 3 are addressed;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the relative disposition of one preferred embodiment of the image splitting/collimating lens array of the instant invention relative to a first embodiment of an axially aligned array of tubular lamps;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the relative disposition of the image splitting/collimating lens array of the instant invention relative to a second embodiment of a square helical array of tubular lamps; and

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 5 and illustrating the manner in which rays of light emanating from the axially aligned lighting configuration of FIG. 5 are split and collimated by the optical media of the image splitting/collimating lens array of the instant invention.

FIG. 8 is a partial cross-sectional schematic view of FIG. 7 illustrating the manner in which the rays of light emanating from the light source are refracted on each side of the integral image splitting/collimating lens to provide two similar images thereof.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Disclosed as part of the instant invention is an improved backlighting assembly for an electronic display, such as a liquid crystal display and most specifically, by way of example and not by way of limitation, to an active matrix liquid crystal display for military and avionic applications. Active matrix liquid crystal displays, which operate in full color and in the transmissive mode, represent the primary choice of flat panel technologies for avionic and military applications because of their sunlight readability, high resolution, color and gray scale capability, low power consumption and thin profile. It is to be specifically noted that while an active matrix liquid crystal display will be described in detail hereinafter as a preferred embodiment, the instant invention can be used with equal advantage in any type of backlit electronic display known to routineers in the art. Therefore, the improved backlighting assembly described herein is adapted to enhance lighting parameters such as brightness, redundancy of lamps, low heat effects, while simultaneously providing a low profile to the overall depth dimension of the display structure. With the foregoing objectives clearly in mind, the improved assembly will be described in greater detail in the following paragraphs.

5,161,041

7

In order for electronic displays to gain increased acceptance in military and avionic applications, the backlighting of flat panel displays, and particularly active matrix liquid crystal displays, must be improved in light efficiency and reliability. In order for a full color liquid crystal display to possess acceptable contrast under high ambient lighting conditions, the backlighting arrangement must be bright. While current backlighting systems have the requisite light output, they still require high power (on the order of 2.4 watts/square inch) and a depth dimension of about two inches. In contrast thereto, the backlight assembly of the instant invention consumes only about 1.2 watts/square inch of power with a depth dimension of only about one inch. In addition, this design increases lamp life, a critical parameter in the design and successful marketing of electronic displays, to approximately 8,000 hours or more from the typical values of about 4,000 hours exhibited by prior art lighting arrangements.

Liquid crystal displays operate as light modulators and do not emit light. Therefore, liquid crystal displays rely upon ambient illumination or backlighting to provide the light necessary for reading. Active matrix liquid crystal displays use a twisted nematic liquid crystal material and two polarizers as the optical components in the modulating mechanism. These materials, together with the color filters, result in a color display panel which can only transmit about 5% of radiation incident thereupon. Therefore, a bright backlight is necessary in order for full color displays to be clearly readable in bright ambient environments.

All backlighting assemblies designed for active matrix liquid crystal display applications have the same basic components. More specifically, each backlighting assembly includes a light source, an optical system comprising one or more lenses for altering the nature of the light emanating from said light source, and light source control electronics (ballast). An exploded perspective view of a fluorescent lamp-based backlight assembly is illustrated in FIG. 1. The backlight assembly depicted therein is represented generally by the reference numeral and, as is typical in the industry, employs a tubular fluorescent lamp 2 as the light source. Of course, the lamp 2 may be arranged in any one of a plurality of well known configurations: it may be serpentine as shown in FIG. 1, alternatively the lamp may be "U-Shaped", or straight.

Returning now to FIG. 1, the typical backlight system further includes a backreflector 3, a lens element 4, and a diffuser 5. Of course, disposed in front of the backlight assembly 1 is a display element comprising a plurality of rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements adapted to be illuminated by said backlight assembly. The purpose of the backreflector 3 is to redirect light which is not initially directed towards the display element so that the maximum amount of light available from a given light source is directed towards the display 6.

Generally speaking, the optical element 4 is provided to alter or enhance the quality of the light emanating from the light source. While the optical element is an important, indeed necessary, component of the backlight system, it is often the primary cause of increased profile (i.e., increased thickness) in a liquid crystal display system. This is due to the fact that in order to achieve the desired optical effect, it is often necessary to operatively space the plurality of lenses which make up the optical element a preselected distance from one

8

another. For example, a collimating lens such as a Fresnel lens is characterized by a focal length which defines the operative spacing from the light source necessary for the lens to effectively collimate the light. This spacing, along with the operative spacing required by, for example a diffuser significantly increases the profile of the backlight assembly.

It is to the end of reducing the profile of the liquid crystal display system that the instant invention is directed. This is accomplished by incorporating two necessary optical components, an image splitting lens and a collimating lens into a single, integral image splitting/collimating lens. More particularly, the instant invention includes an image splitting lens for effectively doubling the area which the light source can uniformly and effectively illuminate. The image splitting lens is however further adapted to collimate the light emanating from the lamp 2 for uniform distribution onto the back of the matrix forming the liquid crystal display 6. There are several ways to obtain light collimation, such as, for example, through the use of various combinations of parabolic shaped reflectors and lens elements. However, the image splitting means of the instant invention is adapted to collimate light passing therethrough due to the presence of multi-faceted prisms formed on the surface thereof. Specifically, engineered facets of close tolerances will not only achieve the desired optical effect of splitting the image of the light source, but will also collimate each image.

The instant inventors have found that a material ideally suited for use as an image splitting/collimating lens is Optical Lighting Film (registered Trademark of 3M Scotch) which is subsequently laminated onto a transparent substrate such as glass, other ceramic or a synthetic plastic resin. By employing an integrally formed image splitting/collimating lens it is thus possible to achieve two desired optical effects with a decrease in the profile of the display as compared to other non-integrally formed optical systems. Indeed, since the distance between the two similar images provided by the image splitting lens is controlled by the operative spacing of the lens from the light source (i.e., the more distant the lens from the light source, the farther apart said two images appear) and since it is desired that the distance between the two images be controlled so that said two images are immediately adjacent one another, it is possible, indeed desirable to dispose the image splitting/collimating lens in close proximity to the light source 2.

Returning now to FIG. 1, a diffuser 5 is provided to scatter the collimated light so that it will illuminate the display matrix 6 in all directions and provide acceptable off axis (wide angle) viewing. However due to the high degree of uniformity of light provided by the image splitting/collimating lens it is not necessary to diffuse the light to the extent necessary in prior art backlight assemblies, and thus the profile of the backlight assembly is further reduced. The backlight assembly 1 further includes lamp control electronics having provisions for lamp starting, a ballast 7 and dimming circuitry.

The light output of the light source 2 disposed behind prior art assemblies such as the liquid crystal display 6 of FIG. 1 is not uniform and will be dependent upon the configuration of the lamps employed and the type of optical system if any, employed. FIG. 2A illustrates the distribution of light intensity directly in front of the serpentine arrangement of fluorescent lamps 2 depicted in FIG. 1, as unenhanced by an optical system (i.e.,

5,161,041

9

without any collimating, image splitting or diffusing elements). As can be easily discerned from FIG. 2A, unenhanced light emanating from the light source will inevitably lead to areas of localized high intensity of illumination on the array of liquid crystal pixels. This, of course, results in local bright spots, such as b, and local pale spots, such as p, in the displayed image and therefore degraded image quality.

Of course, it is one of the purposes of an optical system, such as 4 in FIG. 1, to redistribute the intensity of radiation from the high intensity areas to the areas of lower intensity while maintaining the total integrated light output from the lamp assembly 2. FIG. 2B depicts the typical distribution of light intensity of the serpentine arrangement of fluorescent lamps 2 of FIG. 2A to which a backreflector 3 has been added. Acceptable uniformity across the viewing surface of the liquid crystal display requires optimization of the backreflector 3 in conjunction with the other optical components. Current backlighting arrangements have been configured to provide acceptable uniformity thereacross, but they lose about one-half of the energy emanating from the lamps. The curve marked as I in FIG. 2C illustrates an intensity of illumination that can be expected from current backlighting designs. In the detailed description which follows hereinafter, a highly efficient optical system will be disclosed that maximizes light output while achieving a high degree of uniformity across the viewing screen, in the manner shown by the curve I'.

The lamp and optical configurations are critical elements in the design of such systems because the characteristics thereof determine the final performance parameters and the overall structural profile of the display. In achieving an optical system characterized by such performance, fluorescent lamps will be capable of operation at a substantially reduced power level, which results in prolonged life. This also reduces heat build-up, thereby reducing thermal management requirements and permitting a more compact design. These improvements not only result in an improved backlighting arrangement in terms of uniformity and intensity, but one that is more reliable and less expensive to build and maintain.

Referring now to FIG. 3, there is depicted therein a matrix array of rows and columns of discrete liquid crystal display picture elements, said matrix array being generally designated by the reference numeral 10. Each liquid crystal display picture element, or pixel, 12 includes two spacedly disposed pixel electrode plates with a light influencing material, such as a liquid crystal composition, operatively captured therebetween. (The electrode plates and the light influencing material will be discussed in detail with respect to FIG. 5.) Each of the pixels 12 further includes a threshold switching device or a plurality of threshold switching devices for selectively applying an electric field across the liquid crystal composition when the electric field exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

More specifically, the matrix array 10 which defines the liquid crystal display of the instant invention includes a first set of X address lines 20, 22 and 24; a second set of Y address lines 26, 28 and 30; and a plurality of liquid crystal picture elements 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48. The display further includes at least one isolation or addressing element 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64 and 66 operatively associated with and electrically connected to each respective one of the picture elements. As should be readily apparent to the reader from

10

even a cursory review of FIG. 1, the X address lines 20, 22 and 24 and the Y address lines 26, 28 and 30 cross over one another at an angle so as to define a plurality of spaced crossover points associated with respective ones of the liquid crystal picture elements 32-48. The picture elements are formed on a transparent substrate, such as glass, and are distributed thereover in spacedly disposed relation so as to define interstitial spaces therebetween.

As can be ascertained from a perusal of FIGS. 3 and 4, each of the threshold devices 50-66 is preferably coupled in nonopposing series relation with a first one of the pixel electrodes. This type of switching arrangement will now be described in greater detail with respect to FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, the matrix array 10' includes a plurality of substantially parallel address line pairs 20, 20', 22, 22', 24 and 24' which are the row select lines and a plurality of substantially parallel column address lines 26 and 28. The column address lines 26, 28, and 30 cross the row select address line pairs at an angle and are spaced from the row select address line pairs to form a plurality of crossover points therewith. Preferably, the column address lines cross the row select line pairs at an angle which is substantially perpendicular thereto.

Since, as mentioned hereinabove, each of the pixels are identical, only pixel 12 will be described in detail in the following paragraphs. Pixel 12, as can be seen from the figures, includes a pair of threshold devices 74 and 76 which are electrically coupled together at common node 78. The threshold devices 74 and 76 are preferably diodes and are electrically coupled together in non-opposing series relationship between the row select address line pair 20 and 20'. Although the threshold devices, in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention are diodes, said devices can be of any type which provides a high impedance to current flow when reverse biased and a comparatively low impedance to current flow when forward biased. Therefore, any bidirectional threshold switch or field effect transistor can be utilized with equal advantage. Of course, more conventional electrical interconnections would be employed with field effect transistors.

The picture element or pixel 12 further includes a pair of electrode plates 80 and 82 which are spaced apart and facing one another. Operatively disposed in the space between the electrodes 80 and 82 is a light influencing material 84. The term "light influencing material" is defined and will be used herein to include any material which emits light or can be used to selectively vary the intensity, phase, or polarization of light either being reflected from or transmitted through the material. In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention, the light influencing material is a liquid crystal display material, such as a nematic liquid crystal material. In any event, the electrodes 80 and 82 with the liquid crystal material 84 disposed therebetween form a storage element 86 (or capacitor) in which electric charge can be stored. As illustrated, the storage element 86 is coupled between the common node 78, formed by the electrically connected diodes 74 and 76, and the column address line 26.

Still referring to FIG. 4, the display 10 further includes a row select driver 90 having outputs R-1a, R-1b, R-2a, R-2b, R-3a, and R-3b electrically coupled to the row select line pairs 20, 20', 22, 22', 24, and 24'. The row select driver 90 provides drive signals at the outputs thereof to apply first operating potentials which are substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in polar-

5,161,041

11

ity between the row select address line pairs to forward bias the threshold devices to in turn facilitate the storage of electric charge in the storage elements coupled thereto. The row select driver also applies second operating potentials which are substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in polarity between the row select address line pairs to reverse bias the threshold devices to facilitate the retention of the electric charge stored in the storage elements coupled thereto.

Lastly, the electronic display 10 includes a column driver 92. The column driver 92 includes a plurality of outputs, C1 and C2, which are coupled to the column address lines 26 and 28 respectively. The column driver is adapted to apply a charging potential to selected ones of the column address lines for providing electric charge to be stored in selected storage elements during the application of the first operating potentials to the row select address line pairs by the row select driver 50.

It is preferred that the matrix array of rows and columns of picture elements that combine to make up the improved electronic display 10 of the instant invention utilize a "balanced drive" scheme for addressing each discrete one of the pixels thereof. In this driving scheme, the operating potentials applied to the row select address line pairs are always substantially equal but opposite in polarity. Assuming that the current-voltage characteristics of each of the diodes are substantially equal, a voltage of substantially zero volts will be maintained at the common node 78, at least when the diodes are forward biased. Thus, the voltage applied on the column address line 26 to charge storage element 86 no longer needs to take into account the voltage drop across and/or parasitic charge build-up on one or both of the diodes 74 and 76. Therefore, each pixel in the matrix array of rows and columns may be charged to a known and repeatable value regardless of its position in that matrix array. This permits improved gray scale operation resulting in at least 15 levels of gray scale in large area active matrix displays of the twisted nematic liquid crystal type using normal fluorescent back illumination. The pixels can also be charged more rapidly since the retained charge in the diodes associated with each pixel when they are reverse biased need not be initially dissipated to charge the storage elements. This is because this charge is dissipated when the diodes are first forward biased. A complete description of this driving scheme can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 4,731,610 issued on Mar. 15, 1988 to Yair Baron et al and entitled "Balanced Drive Electronic Matrix System And Method Of Operating The Same", the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Turning now to FIG. 5, there is depicted in a fragmentary perspective view, one preferred embodiment of the instant invention. In this embodiment of the invention, the image splitting/collimating lens 102 is operatively disposed so as to provide for a low profile electronic display assembly 11. The low profile or depth dimension of the display is especially important and is dependent on the type of lighting assembly, the material from which the threshold devices are fabricated, the on-board electronics, the multiplexing schemes, and most importantly, the optical arrangement by which light is diffused, collimated and transmitted to the viewing audience. It is, inter alia, the depth dimension of liquid crystal displays that has been significantly improved by the inventive concept set forth herein.

There are four basic elements which combine to form the electronic display 11 depicted in FIG. 5. The upper-

12

most element is the generally rectangularly-shaped glass panel 10 upon which the rows and columns of active matrix liquid crystal picture elements as well as the associated drive circuitry, described in the preceding paragraphs, are disposed. The lowermost element is the thin, generally rectangularly-shaped back reflector panel 98 upon the interior surface of which one or more thin film layers of highly reflective material, such as aluminum or silver and a light transparent material having a low index of refraction, are deposited. Disposed immediately above the highly reflective panel 98 is an array of light sources 100 from which radiation emanates and either passes directly towards the matrix array of picture elements or is reflected off of the highly reflective panel and then passes upwardly toward said matrix array. Finally, the improved image splitting/collimating lens 102 of the instant invention is operatively located between the array of light sources 100 and the matrix array of picture elements 10. It is the combination of these elements which define the profile, preferably the low profile, of the electronic display of the instant invention.

More specifically, it is important to note that lighting is one of the critical parameters which is employed in assessing the visual appearance of a liquid crystal display. Not only is it essential that the image of the display appear clear and bright to the viewers thereof, but it is also important that the image be substantially as clear to viewers disposed at an angle relative to the vertical plane of the viewing screen of the display. The structural and optical relationship existing between the array of light sources and the image splitting/collimating lens 102 helps to determine the clarity and viewing angle of the display.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIG. 5, the array of light sources 100 is configured as one elongated, serpentine fluorescent lamp (although it must be appreciated that a plurality of discrete elongated tubular lamps could be employed without departing from the spirit or scope of the instant invention) arranged in a specific pattern or lighting configuration and having each section of lamp disposed in a generally horizontal plane. More specifically, the array, regardless of configuration, will be arranged to uniformly distribute radiation emanating therefrom over the entire surface area of the matrix of rows and columns of picture elements 105. To this end, the lighting array is shaped in a serpentine pattern which may include a plurality of elongated lamps, such as 100a-100e, each lamp of which has a longitudinal axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the other major lamp sections. The length of each longitudinal lamp axis is generally coextensive with the length dimension of the matrix array of picture elements. The configuration of the lighting array 100 also includes curved end sections, such as 101c-101d. The number of the elongated axial sections of the lamps and the number of the curved end sections of the lamps must be sufficient to bathe the entire width dimension of the matrix array of picture elements 105 with a uniform shower of illumination.

The image splitting/collimating lens 102 is formed as an integral unit, vis-a-vis, prior art image splitters and collimators which were formed as two distinct elements. The integrally formed image splitting/collimating lens is, as discussed hereinabove, fabricated of Optical Lighting Film (registered Trademark of 3M Scotch) which is subsequently laminated onto a transparent substrate such as glass, a ceramic or plastic. By employ-

5,161,041

13

ing an integrally formed image splitting/collimating lens it is thus possible to achieve two desired optical effects without an increase in the profile of the display. Indeed, since the distance between the two similar images provided by the image splitting effect of the image splitting/collimating lens is controlled by the operative spacing of the lens from the light source (i.e., the more distant the lens 102 from the light source, the farther apart said two images appear) and since it is desired that the distance between the two images be controlled so that said two images are immediately adjacent one another, it is possible, indeed desirable, to dispose the image splitting/collimating lens in close proximity to the light source 100. As is illustrated in FIG. 5, the image splitting/collimating lens can be used in conjunction with a diffuser 104 to further enhance the uniformity of the light emanating from the light source 100.

In a second preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIG. 6, the array of light sources 200 is configured as square, helical fluorescent lamp (although it must be appreciated that a plurality of discrete elongated tubular lamps could be employed without departing from the spirit or scope of the instant invention) arranged in a specific pattern or lighting configuration and having each section of lamp disposed in a generally horizontal plane. As stated hereinabove, the array, regardless of configuration, will be arranged to uniformly distribute radiation emanating therefrom over the entire surface area of the matrix of rows and columns of picture elements 205. To this end, the lighting array is shaped in a square, helical pattern which may include at least a pair of squarely configured, elongated lamps, such as 200a-200b, each portion of each squarely configured lamp being parallel to the squarely configured portions of the other lamp. The configuration of the lighting array 200 also includes curved sections, such as 201c-201d. The number of the elongated portions of the lamps is generally equal to eight in the square helical configuration.

The image splitting/collimating lens 202 is formed as an integral unit, vis-a-vis, prior art image splitters and collimators which were formed as two distinct elements. The integrally formed image splitting/collimating lens is, as discussed hereinabove, fabricate of Optical Lighting Film (registered Trademark of 3M Scotch) which is subsequently laminated onto a transparent substrate such as glass, a ceramic or plastic. By employing an integrally formed image splitting/collimating lens it is thus possible to achieve two desired optical effects without an increase in the profile of the display. Indeed, since the distance between the two similar images provided by the image splitting effect of the image splitting/collimating lens is controlled by the operative spacing of the lens from the light source (i.e., the more distant the lens 202 from the light source, the farther apart said two images appear) and since it is desired that the distance between the two images be controlled so that said two images are immediately adjacent one another, it is possible, indeed desirable, to dispose the image splitting/collimating lens in close proximity to the light source 200. As is illustrated in FIG. 6, the image splitting/collimating lens can be used in conjunction with a diffuser 204 to further enhance the uniformity of the light emanating from the light source 200.

Turning now to FIG. 7, there is depicted therein a cross-sectional view of FIG. 5, said cross-sectional view provided to demonstrate the manner in which rays of light "r" emanating from the lamps 100b-100c of the

14

lighting configuration 100 are collimated to present a sharp image to the viewing audience of the liquid crystal display of the instant invention. More particularly, there is depicted a plurality of lamps, such as 101b, 101c, and 101d, of the embodiment of the lighting configuration wherein the longitudinal axes thereof are disposed in substantially parallel alignment. As can be seen from a perusal of FIG. 7, the rays of light "r" emanating from the three parallel, but spacedly disposed lamps are directed upwardly through the relatively thin image splitting/collimating lens 102. The upper surface, the surface opposite the light source 100, of the image splitting/collimating lens 102 is engineered so as to comprise a series of aligned multi-faceted prisms 103. The prisms 103 are aligned such that the longitudinal extents thereof are substantially parallel to the longitudinal extents of the substantially parallel lamps 100a and 100b. At both the planar air-to-material interface 102z and the faceted L material-to-air interface 102y thereof, the rays of light are collimated and transmitted to the viewers in that collimated fashion. Note that for purposes of illustrating the collimating effect of the lens array of the instant invention, neither the reflector plate 98 nor the matrix array 10 of rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements are depicted in FIG. 7. Of course, it is the aligned facets of said prisms 103 that provide the image splitting effect which is critical to the improved performance provided by the instant invention.

FIG. 8 is presented to schematically illustrate how the above-referenced aligned facets of the prisms 103 inherently operate to provide the image splitting effect. This, of course, also illustrates the inherent characteristics of operation of the aforesaid 3M Optical Lighting Film when used in this invention. As illustrated with reference to a segmented arc of lamp 100c having a mid-point B and extremities A and C (these points being designated for convenience of illustration, it being understood that lamp 100c is a circular tube), certain rays of light are reflected backwardly while others are allowed to exit in collimated fashion from lens 102. To the observer located at "eye" this inherently results in a "split image" 1 and 2, the spacing of which, as aforesaid, is governed by the distance between the lamp 100c and the lens 102.

While the foregoing paragraphs have described the inventive concept set forth in the this specification, the instant inventors do not intend to have the disclosed invention limited by the detailed embodiments, drawings or description; rather, it is intended that the instant invention should only be limited by the scope of the claims which follow hereinafter, as well as all equivalents thereof which would be obvious to those routineers of ordinary skill in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. In a backlit liquid crystal display which includes a source of light; a matrix array of rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements spacedly disposed from one side of said light source; and means for collimating light, said collimating means operatively disposed between said light source and said matrix array of rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements; said liquid crystal display capable of providing an image to a remotely positioned observer; the improvement comprising, in combination:

an integral collimating and image splitting means for collimating light from said light source and for refracting light rays emanating from said light source to provide two similar images thereof,

5,161,041

15

thereby enlarging the area effectively illuminated by said light source, whereby a bright, uniform, light distribution is provided in a low profile assembly.

2. A display as in claim 1, further including a backreflector operatively disposed on the side of said light source opposite said image splitting/collimating lens.

3. A display as in claim 1, further including means for diffusing light emanating from said light source, said light diffusing means operatively disposed between said image splitting/collimating lens and said rows and columns of liquid crystal picture elements.

4. A display as in claim 1, wherein said light source is a single, elongated, serpentine, tubular lamp arranged in a series of elongated parallel lobes.

5. A display as in claim 1, wherein said light source is a multi-tube lamp array wherein each of said lamps are elongated tubular lamps arranged in substantially parallel fashion.

6. A display as in claim 1, wherein said light source is at least a pair of tubular lamps arranged in a square helical configuration.

7. A display as in claim 1, wherein said image splitting/collimating lens comprises a film having prisms formed on one face thereof.

8. A display as in claim 7, wherein the image splitting/collimating film is laminated to a substrate.

9. A display as in claim 8, wherein said substrate is a thin transparent substrate.

10. A display as in claim 9, wherein the substrate is glass.

11. A display as in claim 1 wherein said integral collimating and image splitting means includes a thin film having faceted prisms formed on one face thereof and wherein said light rays are refracted by the said facets of said prisms.

12. A display as in claim 1, wherein the distance between said two similar images is controlled by the oper-

16

ative spacing of said image splitting/collimating means from said light source.

13. A display as in claim 12, wherein said image splitting/collimating means is operatively spaced from said light source so that said two similar images are immediately adjacent one another.

14. A display as in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal display is an active matrix liquid crystal display.

15. A display as in claim 1, wherein each liquid crystal picture element comprises a pair of electrodes having liquid crystal material disposed therebetween and at least one threshold device connected at one of the terminals thereof to one of said electrodes.

16. A display as in claim 15, wherein a pair of threshold devices are provided, said threshold devices electrically coupled together at a common node in nonopposing, series relationship.

17. A display as in claim 15, wherein said at least one threshold device comprises a transistor formed from deposited layers of semiconductor material.

18. A display as in claim 15, wherein the threshold devices comprise diodes formed from deposited layers of semiconductor material.

19. A display as in claim 18, wherein the semiconductor material is an amorphous silicon alloy material.

20. A display as in claim 1, wherein the light source comprises lamps arranged in two orthogonal directions.

21. A display as in claim 20, further including two image splitting/collimating lenses arranged to provide perpendicular image splitting effects.

22. A display as in claim 21, wherein said image splitting/collimating lenses each comprise thin films disposed one atop the other, and wherein the dimension in which one of said image splitting/collimating lenses provides an image splitting effect is offset by 90 degrees relative to the other lens.

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**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION  
DATED JULY 1, 1993**



PATENT

IN UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARKS OFFICE

Applicant: Richard I. McCartney, et al ) Art Unit: 2504  
Serial No.: 007/911,547 ) Examiner: H. Mai  
Filed: 09 July 1992 ) Doc. No.: A6213491  
For: "A DIRECTIONAL DIFFUSER FOR A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY"

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner of U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

JUL 10 1993

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on 06 May 1993,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly delete Claims 4, 5, 6 and 10.

Kindly amend Claims 7 and 9 as follows:

Claim 7 (Twice Amended): A display apparatus comprising:

a light source;

a liquid crystal panel mounted adjacent to said light  
source for receiving light from said light source; and

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Docket No. A6213491

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01 July 1993

17/ first and second lens arrays, each having a plurality of individual lenslets, disposed between said light source and said liquid crystal panel for providing a predetermined variation with viewing angle of light transmission from said light source through said lens arrays and said liquid crystal panel. [A display apparatus in accordance with Claim 10] wherein said liquid crystal panel comprises a plurality of pixels arranged in rows and columns, and wherein the number of rows of pixels per unit height, or pitch, of the liquid crystal panel is a first value; the number of lenslets per unit height, or pitch, of said first lens array is a second value which is less than said first value; and the number of lenslets per unit height, or pitch, of said second lens array is a third value which is greater than said first value.

3  
Claim ~~2~~ (Twice Amended) A display apparatus comprising:  
a light source;  
a liquid crystal panel mounted adjacent to said light source for receiving light from said light source; and  
first and second lens arrays, each having a plurality of individual lenslets, disposed between said light source and said liquid crystal panel for providing a predetermined variation with viewing angle of light transmission from said light source through said lens arrays and said liquid crystal panel. [A display apparatus in accordance with Claim 10]

76

*anted  
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wherein at least one of said first and second lens arrays is rotated about an axis perpendicular to said liquid crystal panel in order to provide a slight misalignment between said lenslets and said liquid crystal panel.

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## REMARKS

The Examiner has finally rejected Claims 4-6 and 10. Applicants have deleted Claims 4-6 and 10.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 7 and 9, indicating that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 8 as being dependent on an objected claim. Claim 7 has been amended to overcome the noted objection and claim 8, which depends therefrom, should now be allowable.

Applicants having amended Claims 7 and 9 to overcome the Examiner's objections, Claim 8 now depending from allowable Claim 7, and all remaining claims having been canceled, hereby request a Notice of Allowance for Claims 7, 8 and 9, as amended, at the earliest opportunity.

"EXPRESS MAIL" Date of Deposit 7-2-93  
 Mailing Label No. EB379304794  
 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231  
JOHANNA JOHANSEN  
 (Typed or printed name of person making paper or fee)  
(Signature)  
 (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale E. Jeppsen  
 Dale E. Jeppsen  
 Reg. No. 37,379  
 Attorney for Applicants  
 602/436-1336

78

**7.**

**TRANSCRIPT OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE  
ON 9/9/2005**

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

<p>1 THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE 3 --- 4 HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC. : CIVIL ACTIONS 5 et al. : 6 Plaintiffs, : 7 v. : 8 AUDIOVOX COMMUNICATIONS CORP., : 9 et al. : NO. 04-1337 (KAJ) 10 Defendants. : 11 HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC. : 12 et al. : 13 Plaintiffs, : 14 v. : 15 APPLE COMPUTER, INC., et al., : 16 : NO. 04-1338 (KAJ) 17 Defendants. : 18 --- 19 Wilmington, Delaware 20 Friday, September 9, 2005 at 10:40 a.m. 21 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE 22 --- 23 BEFORE: HONORABLE KENT A. JORDAN, U.S.D.C.J. 24 --- 25 APPEARANCES: 26 ASHBY &amp; GEDDES 27 BY: STEVEN J. BALICK, ESQ. 28 29 and 30 31 Brian P. Gaffigan 32 Registered Merit Reporter</p>	<p>1 APPEARANCES: (Continued) 2 3 KENYON &amp; KENYON 4 BY: ROBERT L. HAILS, ESQ. 5 (Washington, District of Columbia) 6 and 7 8 KENYON &amp; KENYON 9 BY: JOHN FLOCK, ESQ. 10 (New York, New York) 11 Counsel for Sony Corporation, and Sony 12 Corporation of America 13 and 14 KENYON &amp; KENYON 15 BY: RICHARD M. ROSATI, ESQ. 16 (New York, New York) 17 Counsel for Olympus Corporation, and 18 Olympus America, Inc. 19 RICHARDS LAYTON &amp; FINGER 20 BY: WILLIAM J. WADE, ESQ. 21 and 22 23 WEIL GOTSHAL &amp; MANGES 24 BY: STEPHEN J. RIZZI, ESQ. 25 (New York, New York) 26 Counsel for Matsushita Electrical 27 Industrial Co. And Matsushita 28 Electrical Corporation of America 29 30 31 32</p>
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<p>1 APPEARANCES: (Continued) 2 3 MORRIS NICHOLS ARSHT &amp; TUNNELL 4 BY: THOMAS C. GRIMM, ESQ., 5 and 6 ROBINS KAPLAN MILLER &amp; CIRESI, L.L.P 7 BY: MARTIN R. LUECK, ESQ., 8 MATTHEW L. WOODS, ESQ., and 9 STACIE E. OBERTS, ESQ. 10 (Minneapolis, Minnesota) 11 and 12 HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL 13 BY: J. DAVID BRAFMAN, ESQ. 14 15 Counsel on behalf of Honeywell 16 International, Inc., and Honeywell 17 Intellectual Properties, Inc. 18 19 SMITH KATZENSTEIN &amp; FURLOW 20 BY: ROBERT J. KATZENSTEIN, ESQ. 21 22 and 23 24 HOGAN &amp; HARTSON, LLP 25 BY: ROBERT J. BENSON, ESQ. 26 (Los Angeles, California) 27 28 Counsel for Seiko Epson Corp., 29 Kyocera Wireless Corp. 30 31 YOUNG CONAWAY STARGATT &amp; TAYLOR 32 BY: JOHN W. SHAW, ESQ. 33 Counsel for Olympus Corporation, 34 Olympus America, Inc., Sony Corporation, 35 And Sony Corporation of America 36 and 37 38</p>	<p>1 APPEARANCES: (Continued) 2 3 FISH &amp; RICHARDSON, P.C. 4 BY: THOMAS L. HALKOWSKI, ESQ. 5 Counsel for Nokia, Inc., Casio, Inc., Casio 6 Computer and Apple Computer Inc. 7 and 8 9 FISH &amp; RICHARDSON, P.C. 10 BY: JOHN T. JOHNSON, ESQ., and 11 LEWIS E. HUDNELL, III, ESQ. 12 (New York, New York) 13 Counsel for Casio, Inc., Casio Computer 14 and 15 FISH &amp; RICHARDSON, P.C. 16 BY: KELLY C. HUNSAKER, ESQ. 17 (Redwood City, California) 18 Counsel for Apple Computer Inc. 19 and 20 FISH &amp; RICHARDSON, P.C. 21 BY: LAUREN A. DEGNAN, ESQ. 22 (Washington, District of Columbia) 23 Counsel for Nokia, Inc. 24 25 RICHARDS LAYTON &amp; FINGER 26 BY: CHAD M. SHANDLER, ESQ. 27 and 28 HARRIS BEACH, LLP 29 BY: NEAL L. SLIPKIN, ESQ. 30 (Pittsford, New York) 31 Counsel for Eastman Kodak 32</p>
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Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

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 and Sony Ericsson, Inc.  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22 - oOo -  
 23 P R O C E E D I N G S  
 24 REPORTER'S NOTE: The following proceedings were  
 25 held in open court, beginning at 10:40 a.m.)

## Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

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1 THE COURT: Counsel, this is Judge Jordan. I  
2 apologize keeping you waiting. The folks who were in the  
3 queue ahead of you exceeded their allotted time but we were  
4 able to work some things out and I appreciate your patience.

5 Why don't we go ahead and I'll get a roll call  
6 from you folks of who is on the line and who you represent.  
7 Okay? Let's start with the plaintiff.

8 MR. GRIMM: Good morning, Your Honor. It's Tom  
9 Grimm at Morris Nichols for Honeywell. On the line with me  
10 today, first, Your Honor may recall Honeywell filed two  
11 separate actions so on the line with me also is John Day of  
12 the Ashby & Geddes firm.

13 Our co-counsel on the line with us this morning  
14 are Martin Lueck, Matt Woods and Stacie Roberts at the  
15 Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi firm. And also on the line  
16 this morning with us is David Brafman, Intellectual Property  
17 counsel for Honeywell. And that's for all plaintiff  
18 Honeywell.

19 THE COURT: All right. Let's just start down  
20 the list of defendants. Go ahead.

21 MR. HORWITZ: Your Honor, this is Rich Horwitz  
22 at Potter Anderson on behalf of a number of defendants. And  
23 with me on the line, I'll go through the list.

24 THE COURT: Well, you need to tell me which  
25 defendants you are here for. I know this is --

10

1 MR. HORWITZ: That's fine. I'm on the line for  
2 Dell, Fujitsu, Concord Camera, Toshiba, Nikon, Samsung SDI,  
3 Sanyo, Wintek and Philips.

4 And with me on the line for Dell, Rick Williams;  
5 for Philips, Alan Grimaldi and Nelson Kee; for Fujitsu,  
6 Christopher Chalsen; for Sanyo, Michael Dorfman; for  
7 Toshiba, Carl Schlier; for Nikon, Barry Graham; for Wintek,  
8 York Faulkner. We are on alone for Concord Camera. And for  
9 Samsung SDI, Stephen Komiczky.

10 MR. LAMPERT: One correction. This is Scott  
11 Lampert for Concord Camera.

12 MR. HORWITZ: I'm sorry, Scott. I didn't  
13 realize you were on.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thanks.  
15 Is there anybody else on?

16 MR. WADE: Your Honor, it's Bill Wade at  
17 Richards Layton & Finger, and I'm on for the Matsushita  
18 defendants along with Steve Rizzi and perhaps David Lender  
19 from Weil, Gotshal & Manges.

20 MR. BENSON: Your Honor, this is Robert Benson  
21 of Hogan & Hartson on for Seiko Epson and Kyocera Wireless.

22 MR. KATZENSTEIN: Your Honor, this is Robert  
23 Katzenstein. I'm Mr. Benson's local counsel.

24 MR. HALKOWSKI: Your Honor, this is Tom  
25 Halkowski on behalf of Nokia, Apple and Casio. And with me

1 on the line on behalf of Nokia is Lauren Degnan; and on  
2 behalf of Apple, Kelly Hunsaker; and on behalf of Casio,  
3 John Johnson and Lewis Hudnell. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. ROVNER: Your Honor, this is Phil Rovner for  
6 the Fuji Photo Film defendant. With me on the line is Larry  
7 Rosenthal from Stroock Stroock & Lavan in New York.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. ROCHE: Your Honor, Brian Roche in Chicago  
10 for Hartford Computer Group.

11 THE COURT: And is somebody on with you, sir, as  
12 local counsel?

13 MR. ROCHE: No.

14 THE COURT: Have you arranged for local counsel?

15 MR. ROCHE: Yes, we have local counsel from  
16 Cross & Simon.

17 THE COURT: All right. Typically, we look for  
18 those folks to be on those calls too unless excused. But  
19 thanks for identifying yourself.

20 Who else is on?

21 MR. SHANDLER: Your Honor, Chad Shandler for  
22 Richard Layton for Eastman Kodak. With me on the line is  
23 Neal Slifkin from Harris Beach.

24 THE COURT: Anybody else?

25 MR. WALSH: Your Honor, Tom Walsh with McCarter

12

1 & English on behalf of Audiovox Electronics Corporation.

2 MR. POFF: Your Honor, Adam Poff from Young  
3 Conaway on behalf of the Pentax defendants. And also  
4 Michael Fink from Greenblum and Bernstein on behalf of  
5 Pentax.

6 MR. SHAW: Your Honor, John Shaw for the Olympus  
7 and Sony defendants, and I believe Richard Rosati and Bob  
8 Hails is for Olympus.

9 MR. ROSATI: Rich Rosati for Olympus.

10 MR. SHAW: And Bob Hails is for the Sony  
11 defendants.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. OLSEN: Your Honor, James Olsen from  
14 Connolly Bove for the Sony Ericsson defendants.

15 MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, this is Joe English

16 from Duane Morris on behalf of Audiovox Communications Corp.

17 THE COURT: And do we have anybody else on?

18 MR. FLOCK: Your Honor, this is John Flock from  
19 Kenyon & Kenyon, also on for Sony corporation.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 MS. PASCALE: Your Honor, this is Karen Pascale  
22 from Bouchard Margules & Friedlander for Optrex America  
23 which is the named plaintiffs in the 04-1536 action; and on  
24 the line with me is Andrew Ollis from the Oblong Spivack  
25 firm.

## Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

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1 THE COURT: Okay. Do I have anybody else?  
 2 (Pause.)  
 3 THE COURT: All right. Well, thanks for  
 4 assembling. I'm glad the telephone company has got enough  
 5 lines to handle this call.  
 6 We are together because in spite of what I  
 7 thought was pretty clear direction a few months ago, we  
 8 still haven't been able to get plaintiffs and defendants  
 9 moving forward on this case, and I received a letter on  
 10 August 22nd from Mr. Grimm saying, "hey, since our  
 11 correspondence to you in June, we're still at odds."  
 12 So, I've taken a look at the correspondence but  
 13 why don't I give you a chance to tell me what you think the  
 14 points in dispute are that can't be resolved without my  
 15 intervention so we can get a scheduling order in place,  
 16 short of me just imposing one.  
 17 Who is speaking on behalf of the plaintiffs on  
 18 this?  
 19 MR. GRIMM: Your Honor, this is Tom Grimm.  
 20 Marty Lueck of the Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi firm will  
 21 speak.  
 22 THE COURT: Mr. Lueck.  
 23 MR. LUECK: Good morning, Your Honor. I think I  
 24 can give you a snapshot here of where we've made progress,  
 25 where we haven't and I think give the Court an idea of how

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1 we might be able to resolve the logjam so we can transition  
 2 this case from the customer defendants to the module maker  
 3 defendants.  
 4 Basically, what we have asked for in discovery  
 5 from the customer defendants is a list of all products sold  
 6 in the United States in the categories that are set forth  
 7 in the complaint going back from October 6th, 1998 to the  
 8 present. And we've asked for the identity of a module maker  
 9 for each of those products and the LCD module model number.  
 10 And the reason we've asked for that information is so that  
 11 we can match up the LCD modules that were manufactured  
 12 overseas to the end products that were actually imported  
 13 into the United States and sold because those are the ones  
 14 that are going to be at issue for both liability and  
 15 ultimately, down the road, damage.  
 16 THE COURT: All right. I'm sorry to interrupt,  
 17 Mr. Lueck. Give it to me one more time. What is it that  
 18 you specifically asked for in discovery?  
 19 MR. LUECK: What we're asking for is a list of  
 20 all -- and let me just back up. This is for the customer  
 21 defendants. A list of all products sold in the United  
 22 States in the categories set forth in the complaint from  
 23 October 6th, 1998 to the present. And that's consistent  
 24 with the patent statute of limitations, six years back from  
 25 the date of filings of the complaint. The products.

15

1 THE COURT: All right. Now, before you go  
 2 further, let me ask you what I took it to be the other  
 3 side's position and just have you respond to it directly.  
 4 I think they were saying to saying to me, these  
 5 guys should be identifying the products they think infringe  
 6 in the first instance. Am I right that that is a point of  
 7 contention or am I wrong about that?  
 8 MR. LUECK: You are correct, Your Honor, as to  
 9 some of the defendants.  
 10 THE COURT: What is your response?  
 11 MR. LUECK: Our response to that is we have  
 12 identified all of the products that we have purchased and  
 13 torn down and found specific instances of infringement.  
 14 We're unable to buy every product that is out there, and in  
 15 fact for the products that are in the past, we have no idea  
 16 whether we would have all of those or not have all of them.  
 17 And we don't believe on a going-forward basis, it should be  
 18 our burden to buy every single product of every single  
 19 company, tear it down and then make an individual charge of  
 20 infringement.  
 21 We have given them all the information we have  
 22 to date. And, in addition, we have offered to tear down  
 23 any products they want to send us and we will give them a  
 24 response on the results of that tear-down. And that really  
 25 is the logjam right there. We have resolved that issue with

16

1 three of the defendants, Nikon, Concord Camera and Fuji. I  
 2 believe we're close to resolving it with Nokia and Olympus  
 3 but were unable to make progress with the others.  
 4 THE COURT: All right. And what is the basis of  
 5 your agreement with the ones you have resolved it with?  
 6 MR. LUECK: In essence, Your Honor, they have  
 7 agreed to provide us that information: A historical list of  
 8 products going back to 1998, the identity of the module  
 9 maker for each product and the LCD module number that is in  
 10 the product.  
 11 THE COURT: All right. And is that really the  
 12 heart of the dispute? Is there some other thing going on  
 13 that I need to know about or is this really a kind of an  
 14 Alphonse-and-Gaston thing about who goes through the door  
 15 first?  
 16 MR. LUECK: Yes, I think that is correctly  
 17 summarized, Your Honor. I believe if we can resolve this  
 18 issue, we can make a lot of progress to resolving everything  
 19 else.  
 20 THE COURT: Okay. Who wants to take this up in  
 21 the first instance for the defendants?  
 22 MR. HORWITZ: Your Honor, this is Rich Horwitz.  
 23 I think that you have captured what the main  
 24 dispute is and, really, it boils down to who should go  
 25 first. Based on what Your Honor told us when we were in

## Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

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1 front of you, I think we quoted the language from the  
2 transcript where we think it's their obligation to come  
3 first as the plaintiff charging infringement.

4 There may be some defendants who want to speak  
5 specifically because the burdens on defendants are different  
6 depending on how many products fall within the eight  
7 categories that were mentioned in the complaint for the time  
8 period that we're talking about here, to reach back and grab  
9 things for plaintiff with no firm charge of infringement.  
10 And I think that is the nub of the controversy.

11 There are some other issues that haven't been  
12 discussed yet today that plaintiff raised in its submissions  
13 and we responded to that we thought were outside the scope  
14 of what the Court ordered, but that is kind of a collateral  
15 matter to the main issue which is the one that you have been  
16 focusing on so far.

17 So if there are individual defendants, I think  
18 that they should be able to jump in at this point, if they  
19 want to add argument on their specific circumstances.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Who wants to speak? Don't be  
21 shy.

22 MR. GRAHAM: Your Honor, this is Barry Graham  
23 for the Nikon defendants. And I hope everyone can hear me  
24 well. I had to be on a cell phone today.

25 As Mr. Lueck acknowledged, which I appreciate,

18

1 that Nikon has resolved, has given Honeywell what it asked  
2 for. We gave them specific information in July, and the way  
3 I read the Court's May 18th order, Nikon and other customer  
4 defendants were under basically a conditional stay. And I  
5 would like, at least for Nikon, and there may be others, to  
6 ask the Court to change the conditional stay into a real  
7 stay while the other parties resolve their differences with  
8 the plaintiff.

9 THE COURT: All right. Does anybody else want  
10 to speak?

11 MR. ROSENTHAL: Your Honor, this is Lawrence  
12 Rosenthal for Fuji.

13 In fairness to the other defendants who still  
14 have this dispute, as you may recall, Fuji asked the Court  
15 to limit the case to the eight categories. Honeywell has  
16 now conceded that is what the case is limited to. And if  
17 the case is limited to eight categories, this case becomes a  
18 single product case for Fuji and the burden became finite  
19 and easy to satisfy. I think you will hear from other  
20 defendants that that is not the case.

21 THE COURT: Is there anybody else?

22 MR. RIZZI: Your Honor, this is Stephen Rizzi of  
23 Weil Gotshal for the Matsushita defendants.

24 Just to give you a sense of an example where  
25 we're not similarly situated to some of these defendants

19

1 like Nikon and Fuji, Matsushita is a very diverse  
2 electronics company and has products that span many of the  
3 categories. And if you literally consider going back six  
4 years, all LCD-containing products in those categories,  
5 there are hundreds, if not perhaps more than a thousand  
6 products in this action.

7 Honeywell has identified three products of  
8 Matsushita that are accused of infringement. We, months  
9 ago, told Honeywell who the LCD suppliers are for those  
10 products: two cell phones and one laptop. And just as sort  
11 of a fundamental matter of discovery and burden shifting,  
12 we don't believe that identification of three products  
13 justifies discovery of hundreds, if not perhaps a thousand  
14 products that may or may not be accused of infringement.  
15 The burden is squarely on Honeywell to identify which  
16 products they believe infringe and the case should be framed  
17 around those products. And we do not believe that merely  
18 identifying three products justifies essentially a fishing  
19 expedition into all products going back six years which  
20 could number well into the hundreds, if not more.

21 THE COURT: Okay. I got you.

22 Does anybody else feel like they want to say  
23 something?

24 (Pause.)

25 THE COURT: All right. Hearing nothing,

20

1 Mr. Lueck, back to you. I'll give you a chance to rebut.

2 MR. LUECK: Thank you, Your Honor. Basically  
3 it's hard for me to understand how the burden could be  
4 greater on the defendants to provide this information than  
5 on Honeywell to go out and try to uncover every product that  
6 each of these defendants have sold in the past.

7 THE COURT: Well, wait. I've got to wrestle  
8 with you on that premise because at the start, I moved from  
9 the baseline understanding that the way our adversary system  
10 works is you learn of something that tells you you've been  
11 wronged and then you go and you draft a complaint that  
12 identifies that wrong and you come to court and you bring  
13 somebody in to answer for that wrong. So when you start by  
14 saying, gee, let's look at who has got the greater burden  
15 here, why is it the burden of defendants in the first  
16 instance to tell you everything they ever made with an LCD  
17 module in it when there's apparently a reluctance or  
18 unwillingness or inability on your part in the first  
19 instance to make a case that a product actually does  
20 infringe?

21 I'm probably giving away the way I'm thinking  
22 right now, aren't I? I'm having a real problem with the  
23 fundamental premise with your argument which is we think  
24 there is other stuff out there that infringes and we want to  
25 know everything you made in the last six years so we can

## Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

21

1 decide whether we got a case against you or not. That just  
 2 isn't how it works.  
 3 MR. LUECK: Well, Your Honor, I believe we have  
 4 made that showing. And what we have done is we've gone out  
 5 and bought a large number of products from a wide range of  
 6 customers or end manufacturing defendants. We've torn them  
 7 down. We've given the defendants detailed information on  
 8 what we believe is the infringement. We identified the  
 9 eight product ranges where we found it.  
 10 The modules come from module makers overseas.  
 11 We have no access to those individuals. And I think we've  
 12 satisfied our Rule 11 burden, we satisfied the pleading  
 13 burden on it, and then it becomes an issue of whether or  
 14 not this is reasonably calculated to lead to admissible  
 15 information, which we believe it is, and then it is an issue  
 16 of looking at the relative burdens. And in our view on  
 17 burden, we have a right to recover for damages going six  
 18 years back from the date of the complaint. These models  
 19 change rapidly and often. And we simply have no access to  
 20 records that would show us what those models have been.  
 21 THE COURT: Well, let me ask this, because  
 22 maybe we're talking past each other. When you say you have  
 23 satisfied your initial burden, is the assertion that you are  
 24 making that we have identified products, we've told them the  
 25 products that infringe and the only question is whether,

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1 through various generations of different models of this  
 2 product, somehow there is some difference? Or is there  
 3 something else going on that I'm not getting.  
 4 MR. LUECK: No, I think you have captured it.  
 5 We've identified what the products are that have infringed  
 6 and we've specified what those types of products are and  
 7 we've given them specific model numbers as to ones we've  
 8 been able to purchase and tear down, but that doesn't mean  
 9 that we know all of the generations of those products that  
 10 they have introduced in the past.  
 11 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to ask the  
 12 gentleman who spoke on behalf of Matsushita, the Weil  
 13 Gotshal attorney if he will speak up at this point and  
 14 answer that point, which is: Hey, we're not just on some  
 15 wholesale fishing expedition. We've identified a product  
 16 and a product line and we just need to know the different  
 17 model numbers in that product line so that we're sure that  
 18 we've had a chance to investigate this product thoroughly,  
 19 which is what I understand Mr. Lueck to be saying. What is  
 20 your response to that?  
 21 MR. BRAFMAN: Your Honor, this is David Brafman  
 22 from Honeywell.  
 23 I'd just like to add one further point which is  
 24 our tear-down rate, on average it's about a 50 percent hit  
 25 rate under our belief of infringement across all these

23

1 products. So it's not a wild fishing expedition as it is  
 2 made to sound. It is that we found products, a large  
 3 percentage of them do hit and we just don't have access to  
 4 the models that change every six months.  
 5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. -- I'm sorry, I've  
 6 forgotten your name, sir.  
 7 MR. RIZZI: It's Steve Rizzi from Weil Gotshal.  
 8 THE COURT: Mr. Rizzi, I apologize for not  
 9 holding on to that name. Go ahead.  
 10 MR. RIZZI: That's okay. I think along those  
 11 lines, Your Honor, there is room to meet in the middle here  
 12 from our perspective and, in fact, one of the cases that  
 13 Honeywell cited in its correspondence I believe is  
 14 instructive -- the IP Innovation case out of the Northern  
 15 District of Illinois -- I think is somewhat similar in the  
 16 sense that case involved certain chips that were found  
 17 in various models of televisions that were accused of  
 18 infringement, the basis for infringement being this specific  
 19 chip. And what the plaintiff did originally was identify  
 20 specific television models that they believe included the  
 21 chip and were infringing. And there, the Court allowed  
 22 discovery of other models of televisions that included that  
 23 same chip. So discovery in the case were structured  
 24 around other future generations or products but only those  
 25 products that included the same chip as the specific models

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1 of televisions that were identified by plaintiff.  
 2 We think structuring it along those lines is  
 3 reasonable and does provide a framework that does allow  
 4 for a manageable case as well. And that we believe it is  
 5 possible to identify, for example, other products that  
 6 utilize the same LCD modules incorporated in these specific  
 7 products that are alleged to infringe and that we don't  
 8 believe that that would present an unreasonable burden,  
 9 and we don't dispute that plaintiffs would be entitled to  
 10 that type of information.  
 11 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Lueck.  
 12 MR. LUECK: Yes. What we asked for, Your Honor,  
 13 is the modules that were identified in the infringing  
 14 products and similar modules. And the problem we have is if  
 15 you were to go to these module makers, some of the modules  
 16 infringe, some of the modules don't. The module makers do  
 17 not know what products they go into for the customers.  
 18 Literally, the only way for anyone to find that out is to  
 19 ask them for the historical products. And we've offered to  
 20 take anything that they have and look at it and tell them  
 21 whether it infringes.  
 22 I don't believe the burden is as great as the  
 23 defendants are saying. We've narrowed it down to specific  
 24 products we've torn down. We don't know all of the  
 25 historical model numbers. That's the information we're

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

25

27

1 asking for.  
 2 THE COURT: All right.  
 3 MR. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, this is Rick Williams  
 4 for Dell.  
 5 THE COURT: Yes.  
 6 MR. WILLIAMS: I'd like to weigh in on this. In  
 7 the complaint, the products they're looking for include  
 8 cellular phones, digital cameras, PDAs, portable DVD  
 9 players, laptop computers. In the case of Dell, they  
 10 identified six models of Dell laptop computers out of a  
 11 total current 17 models.  
 12 The first thing, all of Dell's laptops are  
 13 readily available to purchase over the Internet and they can  
 14 get them within a week's time and evaluate them.  
 15 They have not identified any PDAs, which Dell  
 16 also sells.  
 17 Dell resells digital cameras and digital video  
 18 cameras. They have not identified any of those as being  
 19 accused against Dell.  
 20 So we're faced with the dilemma, out of all  
 21 these categories, they say they'd like information on --  
 22 THE COURT: We'll, we're not --  
 23 MR. WILLIAMS: -- them going down the list and  
 24 giving them information.  
 25 THE COURT: Hold on. Because I get the feeling

1 MR. WILLIAMS: No, Your Honor. Again, they  
 2 identified six models out of 16-17. They could certainly  
 3 get the other models. Through the tear-down, they could  
 4 purchase them as easily as Dell could absorb the expense and  
 5 tell us the modules in fact they're accusing of infringement  
 6 rather than asking us to go back and conduct a unilateral  
 7 analysis of our products and say, well, maybe this module  
 8 infringes or maybe this one doesn't. And I think the burden  
 9 should be on them in the first instance to say a particular  
 10 LCD module in a particular computer model we contend meets  
 11 the elements of the claims in our patent instead of  
 12 vice-versa.  
 13 THE COURT: All right. And I am going to have  
 14 to get into a criminal proceeding here in a few minutes, so  
 15 I won't have an opportunity to resolve other issues that you  
 16 may have besides this one.  
 17 My understanding of what is being asked for has  
 18 shifted a little bit in the course of this conversation.  
 19 So instead of trying to speak in terms of what it is you  
 20 are asking for, let me tell you what I think you can  
 21 legitimately ask for and we can get this thing moving  
 22 forward.  
 23 I said in the order that I put out last May that  
 24 Honeywell was required to specifically identify accused  
 25 products. And that's what I meant. Not that Honeywell was

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1 we're still talking past one another here. Maybe positions  
 2 have shifted as a result of the conversation we're having,  
 3 but what I hear what Mr. Lueck is saying is not I want  
 4 information about broad categories of products. I want  
 5 information about a specific product identified and  
 6 different generations of that same identified product. That  
 7 is, has a model changed? And if it has changed, would you  
 8 please identify what the newer different model is of that  
 9 identified product? Not category of products but a  
 10 specified product.  
 11 Mr. Lueck, have I misunderstood you?  
 12 MR. LUECK: Well, I think that is narrower than  
 13 we seek, Your Honor. I mean if it's going to be tied to  
 14 specific model numbers, we don't know what the past model  
 15 numbers these devices are marketed under. Basically what  
 16 we're asking for is which of your products had the modules  
 17 that had the infringing technology or the similar technology  
 18 in them so we can tie them back to the module makers and  
 19 know what modules were imported into the United States.  
 20 THE COURT: All right. I interrupted.  
 21 MR. LUECK: That could be a different model  
 22 number than what we have, we just don't know that, and we  
 23 have no other way of finding out.  
 24 THE COURT: The gentleman from Dell, I  
 25 interrupted you, sir. Go ahead.

1 entitled to say, you know, we think all your cellular phones  
 2 infringe so we want you to tell us everything about all your  
 3 cellular phones. What I mean is if you've got a basis for  
 4 believing that a manufacturer's cellular phones are  
 5 infringing, and I mean you can say we've done this tear-down  
 6 on these specific products and these things appear to us to  
 7 infringe, well, then you are absolutely entitled to conduct  
 8 additional discovery with respect to those products, that  
 9 is, were earlier generations than the one you tore down.  
 10 Also, have they come out with subsequent generations of that  
 11 same model which could also be infringing?  
 12 But what you are not entitled to do is to say  
 13 you manufacture 15 different kinds of cell phones. We tore  
 14 down three. Tell us about your other 12. Because I agree  
 15 with the defendants that now what you are doing is you are  
 16 telling manufacturers, you know what? You got one or two  
 17 things that are bad. We want to you do an analysis of  
 18 everything you make and tell us whether you are guilty on  
 19 those fronts, too; and that is not what the law requires,  
 20 and it's not what I'm going to require them to do.  
 21 If you want to go out, you want to buy them, you  
 22 want to do the tear-downs, you want to get information that  
 23 prompts you to be able to say "now I know that this specific  
 24 model also infringes," then you can certainly do that. And  
 25 then you would be in an area where you could be requiring

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

29

1 additional discovery from them. But to ask them to come  
2 forward in the first instance, which is what it really comes  
3 down to, is not right.

4 So I hope this straightens out where my thinking  
5 is on it and gives you guidance about what I'm expecting the  
6 parties to be willing to do. To the extent manufacturers  
7 are prepared to say, you know what? For us, it's not such a  
8 burden as to make it impossible to give you something more  
9 broad than what the judge has ordered happen, that is fine  
10 with me. But what I do expect to happen at this juncture is  
11 for you guys to come together with a specific set now of  
12 identified products and manufacturers of the models of LCD  
13 modules that go into those products so that we can go about  
14 having the proper defendants in the suit.

15 To the extent there was any thought that I was  
16 putting the burden exclusively on the defendant retailers or  
17 intermediate sellers, to third-party people in, that is not  
18 necessarily the case. I'm not going to get to that issue  
19 today, though, because we don't have time to fully explore  
20 it, but I expect Honeywell to be active in finding out who  
21 those manufacturers are and that is one of the reasons why  
22 I gave only a conditional stay, because one of the pieces  
23 of information Honeywell is entitled to get as to those  
24 identified products and product lines is who is the maker of  
25 the LCD that is going in to that product, that generation of

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1 product and maybe, I don't know, the generations before and  
2 after that model.

3 So you guys absolutely on the defense side have  
4 to give that information up. And then if we can't have some  
5 sensible plan that the parties agree to on how to try to  
6 bring those folks in, I'll get into the mix on that, too. I  
7 would think that overseas marketers of LCD modules who have  
8 big clients in the United States incorporating those things  
9 into their products are not going to want to upset their  
10 clientele by playing games with jurisdiction. And  
11 particularly in the aftermath of the Federal Circuit's  
12 CEA decision, which I remember well, I would think people  
13 would be thinking hard about how they're going to play  
14 the personal jurisdiction defenses here. But that is a  
15 discussion for another day.

16 For now, I want you to get off of the  
17 who-goes-first issue because Honeywell you guys are going  
18 first. You identify what is infringing. Let's get those  
19 manufacturers on notice and let's get the case going  
20 forward.

21 When can I expect to hear back from you about a  
22 plan for getting that done, Mr. Lueck?

23 MR. LUECK: Within a week, Your Honor. If I  
24 could ask for just one clarification, recognizing you have  
25 something else going,

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1 The issue that we've had is just identifying who  
2 the manufacturers of the modules are that are coming into  
3 the U.S. And hearing what Your Honor has said regarding  
4 those modules, can we ask about historical products that  
5 have those modules or similar modules in them?

6 THE COURT: Well, when you say the "same" or  
7 "similar," you know, the "same," absolutely. When you say  
8 "similar," that is a big door, because, what do you mean  
9 when you say "similar?"

10 MR. LUECK: Right. Here is what I mean when I  
11 say "similar," Your Honor. A light source, an LCD panel,  
12 two lens arrays, one of which is misaligned.

13 THE COURT: If you want to say, if you want to  
14 frame your discovery in a manner that incorporates your  
15 specific allegations of infringement, fine.

16 MR. LUECK: That is exactly what we're asking  
17 for. And that we would frame it exactly that way.

18 THE COURT: All right. Does everybody  
19 understand the discovery I'm telling them they're entitled  
20 to?

21 (Pause.)

22 THE COURT: I'm not hearing anybody say no.

23 MR. HORWITZ: Your Honor?

24 THE COURT: Yes, go ahead.

25 MR. HORWITZ: This is Rich Horwitz. And I'll

32

1 defer to others if I'm missing something here, but I think  
2 the problem with what Mr. Lueck just said is he may be  
3 asking for things that led us to the stay motion in the  
4 first instance.

5 THE COURT: No. What led to the stay motion in  
6 the first place is I'm not going to have the folks who are  
7 reselling things, reselling the LCD module as a part of  
8 their own product defending in the first instance.

9 MR. HORWITZ: I'm sorry. I understand that,  
10 Your Honor. What I meant was that some of the people that  
11 are the resellers may not have the information that would  
12 respond to the broad question that Mr. Lueck just posed.

13 THE COURT: Well, and if you don't have it, you  
14 don't have it.

15 MR. HORWITZ: Okay.

16 THE COURT: I mean I'm not saying anybody has to  
17 make anything up, but if you've got the information, you  
18 need to give it up because they're entitled to get behind  
19 your products and get it to people who are making them if  
20 they can get jurisdiction over them. And that's all.

21 Like I said, the personal jurisdiction issue,  
22 that's for another day. But finding out who the  
23 manufacturers are, that's something that is supposed to have  
24 been happening over the course the last four months and it's  
25 distressing to hear that we've been not moving forward on

## Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

33

35

1 that front because we should be. We should be finding out  
2 who this case is going to run against in the first instance.  
3 So I'll ask the parties to move forward with that forthwith;  
4 all right?

5 And, Mr. Lueck, I'll look forward to hearing  
6 from you some time in the next few days in a fashion that  
7 includes discussions to the extent you need to have it with  
8 all defense counsel on how you folks intend to proceed so  
9 that I can get a scheduling order in place.

10 I'm going to set a deadline on you folks  
11 reporting back to me for two weeks from today; all right?  
12 And hopefully that can be a joint submission. But if it  
13 can't given, the number of parties involved, it may be  
14 impracticable, I'll expect though to hear from everybody  
15 with a position on scheduling because what you can expect  
16 from me is I'm ready to put an order in place. I want to  
17 get a schedule in place. So you should be talking about how  
18 to make that happen.

19 All right. Is there any other matter which is  
20 of such urgency we ought to address it right now while we're  
21 all on the phone right now, Mr. Lueck?

22 MR. LUECK: No, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: From the defense side, anything?

24 MR. HORWITZ: No, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Okay. I'm hearing --

1 respect to the case, I'm not going to default you. And at a  
2 certain point in time, there will be a transition from a  
3 conditional stay to a full stay but I don't want to handle  
4 that on a defendant-by-defendant basis if I can help it, so  
5 I'm not moving on that request that you made earlier in this  
6 call at this time.

7 MR. GRAHAM: All right. Thank you, Your Honor.  
8 I'll speak with plaintiffs' counsel.

9 THE COURT: All right. Well, thanks for your  
10 time this morning. Good-bye.

11 (The attorneys respond, "Thank you, Your  
12 Honor.")

13 (Telephone conference ends at 11:18 a.m.)  
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1 MR. GRIMM: Your Honor?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MR. GRIMM: Your Honor, this is Tom Grimm.

4 I do have a concern of letting this go on and on  
5 because we've had such a hard time in the last three or four  
6 months. And this has been very helpful to us but I'm  
7 wondering if we could bother the Court for your permission  
8 that in two weeks after we report, if there is still  
9 differences, can we contact your clerk and ask for another  
10 telephone conference?

11 THE COURT: Well, that is something you are  
12 always free to do. If there is a problem in the case that I  
13 can help you work out, I'm ready to help you work it out.  
14 But I'm fully expecting on the basis of the discussion we  
15 just had, for you to be able to take the next step, which is  
16 set a schedule for getting this case transitioned to an  
17 infringement suit against the manufacturers. All right?

18 MR. GRIMM: All right.

19 MR. GRAHAM: Your Honor, this is Barry Graham  
20 for Nikon.

21 Nikon would like to be able to step aside. Do  
22 we need to participate since we already provided the  
23 information to Honeywell?

24 THE COURT: The short answer is if Honeywell  
25 and you agree that you don't have anything else to say with

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

0	34:17	,14 24:12 27:17	burden 15:18 18:18
04-1337 1:-	ago 13:7 19:9	asking 14:19 25:1 26:16	19:11,15 20:3,14,15
04-1338 1:14	agree 28:14 30:5 34:25	27:6,20 31:16 32:3	21:12,13,17,23 24:8,22
04-1536 12:23	agreed 16:7	assembling 13:4	27:8 29:8,16
1	agreement 16:5	assertion 21:23	burdens 17:5 21:16
	ahead 9:3,5,20 23:9	attorney 22:13	buy 15:14,18 28:21
	26:25 31:24	attorneys 35:11	
10:40 1:- 8:25	al 1:-,8,-,-	audiovox 1:- 7:- 12:1,16	C
11 21:12	alan 6:13 10:5	august 13:10	calculated 21:14
11:18 35:13	alexandria 5:- 8:-	austin 5:-	california 2:- 4:12 6:-
12 28:14	allegations 31:15	available 25:13	call 9:5 13:5 35:6
15 28:13	alleged 24:7	average 22:24	calls 11:18
16-17 27:2	allotted 9:3	away 20:21	camera 6:-, 10:2,8,11
17 25:11	allow 24:3		16:1
18th 18:3	allowed 23:21	B	cameras 5:- 25:8,17,18
1998 14:7,23 16:8	alone 10:8	back 14:7,20,24 16:8	can't 13:14 30:4 33:13
2	along 10:18 23:10 24:2	17:8 19:3 20:1 21:18	captured 16:23 22:4
	alphonse-and-gaston	26:18 27:6 30:21 33:11	carl 5:19 10:7
	16:14	backs 19:19	case 13:9 14:2 18:15,16
2005 1:-	already 34:22	bad 28:17	,17,17,18,20 19:16 20:19
22nd 13:10	always 34:12	balick 1:-	21:1 23:14,16,23 24:4
5	am 15:6,7 27:13	barry 5:- 10:7 17:22	25:9 29:18 30:19 33:2
50 22:24	america 2:-,22 3:8,-,- 5:5	34:19	34:12,16 35:1
6	,-,6,7,-,-, 6:-,6,- 8:-,-	based 16:25	cases 23:12
	12:22	baseline 20:9	casio 4:4,4,9,9 10:25
6th 14:7,23	analysis 27:7 28:17	basically 14:4 18:4 20:2	11:2
9	anderson 5:3 7:7 9:22	26:15	categories 14:6,22 17:7
	andrew 8:6 12:24	basis 15:17 16:4 23:18	18:15,17 19:3,4 25:21
9 1:-	angeles 2:-	28:3 34:14 35:4	26:4
A	answer 20:13 22:14	beach 4:21 11:23	category 26:9
	34:24	became 18:18	cea 30:12
a.m 1:- 8:25 35:13	anybody 10:15 11:24	becomes 18:17 21:13	cell 17:24 19:10 28:13
a/k/a 7:5	12:17 13:1 18:9,21 19:22	beginning 8:25	cellular 25:8 28:1,3,4
ab 8:-	31:22 32:16	behalf 2:- 8:-, 9:22	certain 23:16 35:2
able 9:4 13:8 14:1 17:18	anyone 24:18	10:25 11:1,2,2 12:1,3,4	certainly 27:2 28:24
22:8 28:23 34:15,21	anything 24:20 32:17	,16 13:17 22:12	chad 4:19 11:21
absolutely 28:7 30:3	33:23 34:25	behind 32:18	chalsen 6:- 10:6
31:7	apologize 9:2 23:8	belief 22:25	chance 13:13 20:1 22:18
absorb 27:4	apparently 20:17	believe 12:7 15:17 16:2	change 18:6 21:19 23:4
access 21:11,19 23:3	appear 28:6	,17 19:12,16,17 21:3,8	changed 26:7,7
accused 19:8,14 23:17	appearances 1:- 2:1 3:1	,15 23:13,20 24:4,8,22	charge 15:19 17:9
25:19 27:24	4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1	believing 28:4	charging 17:3
accusing 27:5	apple 1:- 4:-,13 10:25	benson 2:16 10:20,20	chicago 5:15 7:4 11:9
acknowledged 17:25	11:2	benson's 10:23	chip 23:19,21,23,25
across 22:25	appreciate 9:4 17:25	bernstein 7:- 12:4	chips 23:16
action 12:23 19:6	area 28:25	besides 27:16	christopher 6:- 10:6
actions 1:4 9:11	aren't 20:22	big 30:8 31:8	circuit's 30:11
active 29:20	argument 17:19 20:23	bill 10:16	circumstances 17:19
actually 14:12 20:19	argus 7:5	bit 27:18	ciresi 2:5 9:15 13:20
adam 7:- 12:2	arnold 6:-	bob 12:7,10	cited 23:13
add 17:19 22:23	around 19:17 23:24	boils 16:24	city 4:12
addition 15:22	arranged 11:14	bother 34:7	civil 1:4
additional 28:8 29:1	arrays 31:12	bouchard 8:3 12:22	claims 27:11
address 33:20	arsht 2:-	bought 21:5	clarification 30:24
admissible 21:14	ashby 1:22 9:12	bove 8:12 12:14	clear 13:7
adversary 20:9	aside 34:21	brafman 2:- 9:16 22:21	clerk 34:9
aftermath 30:11	ask 15:2 18:6 21:21	,21	clientele 30:10
again 27:1	22:11 24:19 27:21 29:1	brian 1:25 7:- 11:9	clients 30:8
against 21:1 25:19 33:2	30:24 31:4 33:3 34:9	bring 20:12 30:6	close 16:2
	asked 14:4,8,10,18 18:1	broad 26:4 29:9 32:12	co 3:19 5:7,16 7:-

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

co-counsel 9:13	32:5,13,16 33:23,25 34:2	18:14 24:9	23:4
collateral 17:14	,7,11,24 35:9	distressing 32:25	everybody 31:18 33:14
columbia 3:- 4:16 5:11	court's 18:3	district 1:1,2 3:- 4:16	everyone 17:23
6:14 7:-	criminal 27:14	5:11 6:14 7:- 23:15	everything 16:18 20:16
coming 31:2	cross 11:16	diverse 19:1	,25 28:2,18
communications 1:- 7:-	current 25:11	doesn't 22:8 27:8	exactly 31:16,17
12:16	customer 14:2,5,20 18:3	doing 28:15	example 18:24 24:5
company 13:4 15:19	customers 21:6 24:17	don't 9:5 13:13 15:17	exceeded 9:3
19:2		17:20 19:12 23:3 24:7,9	exclusively 29:16
complaint 14:7,22,25	D	,16,22,24 26:14,22 29:19	excused 11:18
17:7 20:11 21:18 25:7	damage 14:15	30:1 32:13,14 34:25 35:3	expect 29:10,20 30:21
computer 1:- 4:-,9,13	damages 21:17	done 21:4 28:5 30:22	33:14,15
5:- 6:- 7:- 11:10 27:10	date 14:25 15:22 21:18	door 16:14 31:8	expecting 29:5 34:14
computers 25:9,10	david 2:- 9:16 10:18	dorfman 5:- 10:6	expedition 19:19 22:15
conaway 2:- 7:17 12:3	22:21	down 9:19 14:15 15:13	23:1
conceded 18:16	day 9:11 30:15 32:22	,19,22 16:24 21:7 22:8	expense 27:4
concern 34:4	days 33:6	24:23,24 25:23 28:9,14	explore 29:19
concord 5:- 6:-, 10:2,8	deadline 33:10	29:3	extent 29:6,15 33:7
,11 16:1	decide 21:1	draft 20:11	
conditional 18:4,6 29:22	decision 30:12	duane 7:- 12:16	F
35:3	default 35:1	dunner 5:10 6:8	faced 25:20
conduct 27:6 28:7	defendant 11:6 29:16	dvd 25:8	fact 15:15 23:12 27:5
conference 1:17 34:10	defendant-by-defendant		fairness 18:13
35:13	35:4	E	fall 17:6
connolly 8:12 12:14	defendants 1:9,- 9:20,22	earlier 28:9 35:5	far 17:16
consider 19:3	,25 10:18 12:3,7,11,14	easily 27:4	farabow 5:10 6:8
consistent 14:23	13:8 14:2,3,5,21 15:9	eastman 4:23 11:22	fashion 33:6
contact 34:9	16:1,21 17:4,5,17,23	easy 18:19	faulkner 6:- 10:8
contend 27:10	18:4,13,20,23,25 20:4,6	eight 17:6 18:15,17 21:9	federal 30:11
contention 15:7	,15 21:6,7 24:23 28:15	electical 3:-	feel 19:22
continued 2:1 3:1 4:1	29:14	electric 5:7,16	feeling 25:25
5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1	defending 32:8	electrical 3:-	few 13:7 27:14 33:6
controversy 17:10	defense 30:3 33:8,23	electro-optics 5:- 6:10	filed 9:10
conversation 26:2 27:18	defenses 30:14	electronics 5:- 6:15 12:1	filings 14:25
corp 1:- 2:-,18 5:- 6:-, 7:-	defer 32:1	19:2	film 7:-,12 11:6
12:16	degnan 4:- 11:1	elements 27:11	find 24:18
corporation 2:21,-,22 3:-	delaware 1:2,16	elkins 5:-	finding 26:23 29:20
,8,12,- 5:6,-,12 6:- 7:-	dell 5:-, 10:2,4 25:4,9,10	else 10:15 11:20,24	32:22 33:1
12:1,19	,15,17,19 26:24 27:4	12:17 13:1 16:19 18:9,21	fine 10:1 29:9 31:15
correct 15:8	dell's 25:12	19:22 22:3 30:25 34:25	finger 3:14 4:- 10:17
correction 10:10	depending 17:6	end 14:12 21:6	finite 18:18
correctly 16:16	detailed 21:7	ends 35:13	fink 7:20 12:4
correspondence 13:11	devices 26:15	english 7:14 8:9 12:1,15	finnegan 5:10 6:8
,12 23:13	didn't 10:12	,15	firm 9:12,15 12:25 13:20
corroon 5:3 7:7	diego 6:-	enough 13:4	17:9
counsel 2:-,21 3:-,12,-	difference 22:2	entitled 24:9 28:1,7,12	first 9:10 15:6 16:15,21
4:4,9,13,17,23 5:-,12,16	differences 18:7 34:9	29:23 31:19 32:18	,25 17:3 20:15,18 25:12
,,- 6:5,10,15,-, 7:5,-,-	different 17:5 22:1,16	epson 2:- 10:21	27:9 29:2 30:18 32:4,6,8
8:-,- 9:1,17 10:23 11:12	26:6,8,21 28:13	ericsson 8:-,14 12:14	33:2
,14,15 33:8 35:8	digital 25:8,17,17	esq 1:- 2:3,-,6,-,-,16,20	fish 4:-,11,15
course 27:18 32:24	dilemma 25:20	3:3,6,-,-,17 4:3,7,-,-,19	fishing 19:18 22:15 23:1
court 1:1 8:25 9:1,19,24	direction 13:7	,,- 5:-,-,19,23 6:-,-,18	flock 3:6 12:18,18
10:14 11:4,8,11,14,17,24	directly 15:3	,22 7:-,-,10,14,-,20 8:-,6,-	florida 6:-
12:12,17,20 13:1,3,22,25	discovery 14:4,18 19:11	,,-	focusing 17:16
14:16 15:1,10 16:4,11,20	,13 23:22,23 28:8 29:1	essence 16:6	folks 9:2,6 11:18 30:6
17:14,20 18:6,9,14,21	31:14,19	essentially 19:18	32:6 33:8,10
19:21,25 20:7,12 21:21	discussed 17:12	et 1:-,8,-,-	following 8:24
22:11 23:5,8,21 24:11	discussion 30:15 34:14	evaluate 25:14	forgotten 23:6
25:2,5,22,25 26:20,24	discussions 33:7	ever 20:16	forth 14:6,22
27:13 31:6,13,18,22,24	dispute 13:14 16:12,24	every 15:14,18,18 20:5	forthwith 33:3

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

forward 13:9 27:22 29:2 30:20 32:25 33:3,5	grab 17:8	hope 17:23 29:4	20:20 21:25 24:7,16 28:2
found 15:13 21:9 23:2,16	graham 5:- 10:7 17:22 ,22 34:19,19 35:7	hopefully 33:12	,7
four 32:24 34:5	great 24:22	horwitz 5:- 9:21,21 10:1	infringed 22:5
frame 31:14,17	greater 20:4,14	,12 16:22,22 31:23,25,25	infringement 15:13,20
framed 19:16	greenblum 7:- 12:4	32:9,15 33:24	17:3,9 19:8,14 21:8
framework 24:3	grimaldi 6:13 10:5	howrey 6:-	22:25 23:18,18 27:5
free 34:12	grimm 2:3 9:8,9 13:10,19	hudnell 4:- 11:3	31:15 34:17
friday 1:-	,19 34:1,3,3,18	hundreds 19:5,13,20	infringes 20:24 24:21
friedlander 8:3 12:22	group 7:- 11:10	hunsaker 4:- 11:2	27:8 28:24
front 17:1 33:1	guidance 29:5	hutz 8:12	infringing 23:21 24:13
fronts 28:19	guilty 28:18		26:17 28:5,11 30:18
fuji 7:-,12 11:6 16:1	guys 15:5 29:11 30:3,17	I	initial 21:23
18:12,14,18 19:1			innovation 23:14
fujitsu 5:5,5,- 6:5,5,-	H	i'd 22:23 25:6	instance 15:6 16:21
10:2,5		i'll 9:5,23 20:1 30:6 31:25	20:16,19 27:9 29:2 32:4
full 35:3	hadley 6:3	33:3,5,14 35:8	,8 33:2
fully 29:19 34:14	hails 3:3 12:8,10	i'm 10:1,12,17,23 13:4	instances 15:13
fundamental 19:11	halkowski 4:3 10:24,25	14:16 20:21,21,22 22:3	instead 27:11,19
20:23	handle 13:5 35:3	,11 23:5 28:20 29:5,18	instructive 23:14
furrow 2:13	happen 29:9,10 33:18	31:19,22 32:1,6,9,16	intellectual 2:- 9:16
further 15:2 22:23	happening 32:24	33:10,16,25 34:6,13,14	intend 33:8
future 23:24	hard 20:3 30:13 34:5	35:1,5	intermediate 29:17
	harris 4:21 11:23	i've 13:12 20:7 23:5	international 1:4,10 2:9
G	hartford 7:5 11:10	idea 13:25 15:15	,11
	hartson 2:- 10:21	identification 19:12	internet 25:13
gaffigan 1:25	hastings 6:-	identified 15:12 19:7	interrupt 14:16
games 30:10	haven't 13:8,25 17:11	21:8,24 22:5,15 24:1,13	interrupted 26:20,25
garrett 5:10 6:8	having 20:22 26:2 29:14	25:10,15,18 26:5,6,9	intervention 13:15
gave 18:2 29:22	hear 17:23 18:19 26:3	27:2 29:12,24	introduced 22:10
geddes 1:22 9:12	30:21 32:25 33:14	identifies 20:12	investigate 22:18
gee 20:14	hearing 19:25 31:3,22	identify 19:15 23:19 24:5	involved 23:16 33:13
generation 29:25	33:5,25	26:8 27:24 30:18	ip 23:14
generations 22:1,9	heart 16:12	identifying 11:19 15:5	isn't 21:2
23:24 26:6 28:9,10 30:1	held 8:25	19:18 31:1	issue 14:14 15:25 16:18
gentleman 22:12 26:24	help 34:13,13 35:4	identity 14:8 16:8	17:15 21:13,15 29:18
getting 22:3 30:22 34:16	helpful 34:6	iii 4:-	30:17 31:1 32:21
give 13:13,24,25 14:17	henderson 5:10 6:8	illinois 5:15 7:4 23:15	issues 17:11 27:15
15:23 18:24 20:1 29:8	hey 13:10 22:14	imported 14:12 26:19	it's 9:8 10:16 17:2 20:3
30:4 32:18	historical 16:7 24:19,25	imposing 13:16	22:24 23:1,7 26:13 28:20
given 15:21 18:1 21:7	31:4	impossible 29:8	29:7 32:24
22:7 33:13	hit 22:24 23:3	impracticable 33:14	
gives 29:5	hogan 2:- 10:21	inability 20:18	J
giving 20:21 25:24	hold 25:25	inc 1:4,10,- 2:11,-, 3:-	james 8:- 12:13
glad 13:4	holding 23:9	4:4,4,-,9,13,17 5:-,5,-,6	janofsky 6:-
go 9:5,20,23 15:1 16:24	hollywood 6:-	,12,- 6:-,6 7:-,12,22 8:-	joe 12:15
20:5,11 23:9 24:15,17	honeywell 1:4,10 2:9,-	,14	john 2:20 3:6 4:7 9:11
26:25 27:6 28:21 29:13	,11 9:9,10,17,18 18:1,15	include 25:7	11:3 12:6,18
,13 31:24 34:4	19:7,9,15 20:5 22:22	included 23:20,22,25	johnson 4:7 11:3
goes 16:14	23:13 27:24,25 29:20,23	includes 33:7	joint 33:12
going 14:7,14 16:8,12	30:17 34:23,24	incorporated 24:6	jordan 1:19 9:1
19:3,19 21:17 22:3,11	honor 9:8,10,21 10:16	incorporates 31:14	joseph 7:14
25:23 26:13 27:13 28:20	,20,22,24 11:5,9,21,25	incorporating 30:8	judge 9:1 29:9
29:18,25 30:9,13,17,19	12:2,6,13,15,18,21 13:19	individual 15:19 17:17	july 18:2
,25 32:6 33:2,10 35:1	,23 15:8 16:6,17,22,25	individuals 21:11	jump 17:18
going-forward 15:17	17:22 18:11,22 20:2 21:3	industrial 3:19	junction 29:10
gone 21:4	22:21 23:11 24:12 25:3	information 14:10 15:21	june 13:11
good 9:8 13:23	26:13 27:1 30:23 31:3,11	16:7 18:2 20:4 21:7,15	jurisdiction 30:10,14
good-bye 35:10	,23 32:10 33:22,24 34:1	24:10,25 25:21,24 26:4,5	32:20,21
gotshal 3:- 10:19 18:23	,3,19 35:7,12	28:22 29:23 30:4 32:11	justifies 19:13,18
22:13 23:7	honorable 1:19	,17 34:23	
		infringe 15:5 19:16	

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

K			
kaj 1:-,14	limit 18:15	may 9:10 17:4 18:3,5,14	27:1 30:22,23 31:10,16
kaplan 2:5 9:15 13:20	limitations 14:24	19:14,14 27:16,23 32:2	,23,25 32:2,9,12,15 33:5
karen 8:- 12:21	limited 5:5 6:5 18:16,17	,11 33:13	,21,22,24 34:1,3,18,19
katten 5:14	line 9:6,9,11,13,15,23	maybe 21:22 26:1 27:7,8	35:7
katzenstein 2:13,- 10:22	10:1,4 11:1,6,22 12:24	30:1	ms 12:21
,23	22:16,17	mccarter 8:9 11:25	muchin 5:14
kee 6:- 10:5	lines 13:5 23:11 24:2	mcclelland 5:- 8:-	N
keeping 9:2	29:24	mccloy 6:3	
kelly 4:- 11:2	list 9:20,23 14:5,19,21	mean 22:8 26:13 28:3,5	name 23:6,9
kent 1:19	16:7 25:23	31:8,10 32:16	named 12:23
kenyon 3:-,-,-,10,10	literally 24:18	meant 27:25 32:10	narrowed 24:23
12:19,19	literately 19:3	meet 23:11	narrower 26:12
kind 16:13 17:14	little 27:18	meets 27:10	neal 4:- 11:23
kinds 28:13	llp 2:- 4:21 5:3,10 6:3,8,-	mentioned 17:7	necessarily 29:18
know 9:25 16:13 20:25	, - 7:7,-	merely 19:17	need 9:24 16:13 22:16
22:9,16 24:17,24 26:14	local 10:23 11:12,14,15	merit 1:-	32:18 33:7 34:22
,19,22 28:1,16,23 29:7	lodge 8:12	michael 5:- 7:20 8:- 10:6	nelson 6:- 10:5
30:1 31:7	logjam 14:1 15:25	12:4	neustadt 5:- 8:-
kodak 4:23 11:22	look 11:17 13:12 20:14	middle 23:11	new 3:-,-,11,11,-,- 4:8,8
korniczky 6:18 10:9	24:20 33:5	milbank 6:3	,22 6:4,4 7:-,- 11:7
kyocera 2:18 10:21	looking 21:16 25:7	miller 2:5 9:15 13:20	newer 26:8
L		minneapolis 2:7	next 33:6 34:15
l.i.p 2:5	los 2:-	minnesota 2:7	nichols 2:- 9:9
lampert 6:22 10:10,11	lot 16:18	minutes 27:14	nikon 5:12,12 10:2,7
language 17:1	ltd 5:7,16 7:-	misaligned 31:12	16:1 17:23 18:1,3,5 19:1
laptop 19:10 25:9,10	lueck 2:- 9:14 13:20,22	missing 32:1	34:20,21
laptops 25:12	,23 14:17,19 15:8,11	misunderstood 26:11	no 1:-,14 11:13 15:15
large 21:5 23:2	16:6,16 17:25 20:1,2	mix 30:6	17:9 21:11,19 22:4 26:23
larry 11:6	21:3 22:4,19 24:11,12	model 14:9 22:7,17	27:1 31:22 32:5 33:22,24
last 20:25 27:23 32:24	26:3,11,12,21 30:22,23	24:25 26:7,8,14,14,21	nokia 4:4,17 10:25 11:1
34:5	31:10,16 32:2,12 33:5,21	27:10 28:11,24 30:2	16:2
lauren 4:- 11:1	,22	models 21:18,20 22:1	north 5:7,-,- 6:-
lavan 7:- 11:7	M		northern 23:14
law 28:19	maier 5:- 8:-	23:4,17,20,22,25 25:10	note 8:24
lawrence 7:10 18:11	main 16:23 17:15	,11 27:2,3 29:12	nothing 19:25
layton 3:14 4:- 10:17	maker 14:2,8 16:9 29:24	module 14:2,8,9 16:8,9	notice 30:19
11:22	makers 21:10 24:15,16	20:17 21:10 24:15,16	nub 17:10
lcd 14:9,11 16:9 19:9	26:18	26:18 27:7,10 32:7	number 9:22 14:9 16:9
20:16 24:6 27:10 29:12	making 21:24 32:19	modules 14:11 21:10	19:20 21:5 26:22 33:13
,25 30:7 31:11 32:7	manageable 24:4	24:6,13,14,15,16 26:16	numbers 22:7,17 24:25
lcd-containing 19:4	manges 3:- 10:19	,19 27:5 29:13 30:7 31:2	26:14,15
lead 21:14	manner 31:14	,4,5,5	O
learn 20:10	manufacture 28:13	months 13:7 19:8 23:4	oberts 2:-
least 18:5	manufactured 14:11	32:24 34:6	obligation 17:2
led 32:3,5	manufacturer's 28:4	morning 9:8,13,16 13:23	oblon 5:- 8:-
legitimately 27:21	manufacturers 28:16	35:10	oblong 12:24
lender 10:18	29:6,12,21 30:19 31:2	morris 2:- 7:- 9:9 12:16	october 14:7,23
lens 31:12	32:23 34:17	motion 32:3,5	odds 13:11
let 14:20 15:2 21:21	manufacturing 21:6	move 33:3	off 30:16
27:20	margules 8:3 12:22	moved 20:8	offered 15:22 24:19
let's 9:7,19 20:14 30:18	marketed 26:15	moving 13:9 27:21 32:25	often 21:19
,19	marketers 30:7	35:5	okay 9:7 11:8 12:12 13:1
letter 13:9	martin 2:- 9:14	mr 9:8,21 10:1,10,12,16	16:20 17:20 19:21 23:10
letting 34:4	marty 13:20	,20,22,23,24 11:5,9,13	32:15 33:25
lewis 4:- 11:3	match 14:11	,15,21,25 12:2,6,9,10,13	ollis 8:6 12:24
liability 14:14	matsushita 3:-,19 10:17	,15,18 13:10,19,22,23	olsen 8:- 12:13,13
light 31:11	18:23 19:1,8 22:12	14:17,19 15:8,11 16:6,16	olympus 2:21,- 3:12,-
	matt 9:14	,22 17:22,25 18:11,22	12:6,8,9 16:2
	matter 17:15 19:11 33:19	20:1,2 21:3 22:4,19,21	one 10:10 13:16 14:17
	matthew 2:6	23:5,7,8,10 24:11,12	
		25:3,6,23 26:3,11,12,21	

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

17:15 19:10 22:23 23:12	plan 30:5,22	range 21:5	richards 3:14 4:- 10:17
26:1 27:8,16 28:9,16	play 30:13	ranges 21:9	richardson 4:-,11,15
29:21,22 30:24 31:12	players 25:9	rapidly 21:19	rick 10:4 25:3
ones 14:13 16:5 22:7	playing 30:10	rate 22:24,25	right 9:19 10:14 11:4,17
ooo 8:22	plc 7:-	rather 27:6	13:3 14:16 15:1,6,25
open 8:25	pleading 21:12	reach 17:8	16:4,11 18:9 19:25 20:22
opportunity 27:15	please 26:8	read 18:3	21:17 22:11 23:5 24:11
optrex 8:-, 12:22	poff 7:- 12:2,2	readily 25:13	25:2 26:20 27:13 29:3
order 13:15 18:3 27:23	point 15:6 17:18 22:13	ready 33:16 34:13	31:10,18 33:4,11,19,20
33:9,16	,14,23 35:2	real 18:6 20:22	,21 34:17,18 35:7,9
ordered 17:14 29:9	points 13:14	realize 10:13	rizzi 3:17 10:18 18:22,22
originally 23:19	portable 25:8	really 15:24 16:11,13,24	23:7,7,8,10
ought 33:20	posed 32:12	29:2	road 14:15
outside 17:13	position 15:3 33:15	reason 14:10	robert 2:-,16 3:3 10:20
overseas 14:12 21:10	positions 26:1	reasonable 24:3	,22
30:7	possible 24:5	reasonably 21:14	roberts 9:14
own 32:8	potter 5:3 7:7 9:22	reasons 29:21	robins 2:5 9:15 13:20
	premise 20:8,23	rebut 20:1	roche 7:- 11:9,9,13,15
P	prepared 29:7	recall 9:10 18:14	roderick 5:23
p.c 4:-,11,15 5:- 8:-	present 14:8,23 24:8	received 13:9	roll 9:5
panel 31:11	pretty 13:7	recognizing 30:24	room 23:11
part 20:18 32:7	probably 20:21	records 21:20	rosati 3:- 12:7,9,9
participate 34:22	problem 20:22 24:14	recover 21:17	rosenman 5:14
particular 27:9,10	32:2 34:12	redwood 4:12	rosenthal 7:10 11:7
particularly 30:11	proceed 33:8	regarding 31:3	18:11,12
parties 18:7 29:6 30:5	proceeding 27:14	registered 1:-	rovner 7:- 11:5,5
33:3,13	proceedings 8:24	relative 21:16	rule 21:12
pascale 8:- 12:21,21	product 15:14,18 16:9	reluctance 20:17	run 33:2
past 15:15 20:6 21:22	,10 18:18 20:5,19 21:9	remember 30:12	
22:10 26:1,14	22:2,15,16,17,18 26:5,6	report 34:8	S
patent 14:24 27:11	,9,10 29:24,25 30:1 32:8	reporter 1:-	sachnoff 7:3
patience 9:4	products 5:- 6:- 14:5,9	reporter's 8:24	samsung 5:8 6:- 10:2,9
paul 6:-	,12,21,25 15:5,12,15,23	reporting 33:11	san 6:-
pause 13:2 19:24 31:21	16:8 17:6 19:2,4,6,7,10	represent 9:6	sanyo 5:-,7,16,- 10:3,6
pdas 25:8,15	,12,14,16,17,18,19 21:5	request 35:5	satisfied 21:12,12,23
pentax 7:-,22 12:3,5	,24,25 22:5,6,9 23:1,2,24	require 28:20	satisfy 18:19
people 29:17 30:12	,25 24:5,7,14,17,19,24	required 27:24	say 19:22 21:22 25:21
32:10,19	25:7 26:4,9,16 27:7,25	requires 28:19	27:7,9 28:1,5,12,23 29:7
percent 22:24	28:6,8 29:12,13,24 30:9	requiring 28:25	31:6,7,9,11,13,22 34:25
percentage 23:3	31:4 32:19	resellers 32:11	saying 13:10 15:4,4
perhaps 10:18 19:5,13	progress 13:24 16:3,18	reselling 32:7,7	20:14 22:19 24:23 26:3
period 17:8	prompts 28:23	resells 25:17	32:16
permission 34:7	proper 29:14	resolve 14:1 16:17 18:7	schedule 33:17 34:16
personal 30:14 32:21	properties 2:-	27:15	scheduling 13:15 33:9
perspective 23:12	property 9:16	resolved 13:14 15:25	,15
phil 11:5	provide 16:7 20:4 24:3	16:5 18:1	schlier 5:19 10:7
philip 7:-	provided 34:22	resolving 16:2,18	scope 17:13
philips 5:- 6:15 10:3,5	purchase 22:8 25:13	respect 28:8 35:1	scott 6:22 10:10,12
phone 17:24 33:21	27:4	respond 15:3 32:12	sdi 5:8 6:- 10:2,9
phones 19:10 25:8 28:1	purchased 15:12	35:11	seek 26:13
,3,4,13	put 27:23 33:16	responded 17:13	seiko 2:- 10:21
photo 7:-,12 11:6	putting 29:16	response 15:10,11,24	sellers 29:17
pieces 29:22		22:20	sells 25:16
pittsford 4:22	Q	reston 6:9 7:-	send 15:23
place 13:15 32:6 33:9,16	question 21:25 32:12	result 26:2	sense 18:24 23:16
,17	queue 9:3	results 15:24	sensible 30:5
plaintiff 9:7,17 17:3,9,12	quoted 17:1	retailers 29:16	separate 9:11
18:8 23:19 24:1		rich 9:21 12:9 16:22	september 1:-
plaintiffs 1:-, 12:23 13:8	R	31:25	set 14:6,22 29:11 33:10
,17 24:9 35:8	raised 17:12	richard 3:- 5:- 11:22 12:7	34:16

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

shandler 4:19 11:21,21	,5 35:3,3	23:10,15 24:2 26:12 27:8	21:20 27:5,6 28:2,6,14
shaw 2:20 12:6,6,10	step 34:15,21	,20 28:1 30:7,12 32:1	,18 29:7 32:3 34:6
shifted 26:2 27:18	stephen 3:17 6:18 10:9	thinking 20:21 29:4	utilize 24:6
shifting 19:11	18:22	30:13	
short 13:16 34:24	steve 10:18 23:7	third-party 29:17	V
show 21:20	steven 1:-	thomas 2:3 4:3 8:-	various 22:1 23:17
showing 21:4	straightens 29:4	thoroughly 22:18	vice-versa 27:12
shy 17:21	stroock 7:-, 11:7,7	though 29:19 33:14	video 25:17
side 30:3 33:23	structured 23:23	thought 13:7 17:13	view 21:16
side's 15:3	structuring 24:2	29:15	vinson 5:-
similar 23:15 24:14	stuff 20:24	thousand 19:5,13	virginia 5:- 6:9 7:- 8:-
26:17 31:5,7,8,9,11	submission 33:12	three 16:1 19:7,12,18	
similarly 18:25	submissions 17:12	28:14 34:5	W
simon 6:- 11:16	subsequent 28:10	tie 26:18	wade 3:- 10:16,16
simply 21:19	suit 29:14 34:17	tied 26:13	wait 20:7
single 15:18,18 18:18	summarized 16:17	time 9:3 14:17 17:7	waiting 9:2
sir 11:11 23:6 26:25	suppliers 19:9	25:14 29:19 33:6 34:5	walker 6:-
situated 18:25	supposed 32:23	35:2,6,10	walsh 8:- 11:25,25
six 14:24 19:3,19 20:25	sure 22:17	today 9:10 17:12,24	want 15:23 17:4,19 18:9
21:17 23:4 25:10 27:2	system 20:9	29:19 33:11	19:22 20:24 26:3,4 28:2
slifkin 4:- 11:23		together 13:6 29:11	,17,21,21,22,22 30:9,16
smith 2:13	T	told 16:25 19:9 21:24	31:13,13 33:16 35:3
snapshot 13:24	taken 13:12	tom 9:8 10:24 11:25	wants 16:20 17:20
sold 14:5,13,21 20:6	talking 17:8 21:22 26:1	13:19 34:3	washington 3:- 4:16
somebody 11:11 20:13	33:17	took 15:2	5:11 6:14 7:-
somehow 22:2	taylor 2:- 7:17	tore 28:9,13	we'll 25:22
something 19:23 20:10	tear 15:19,22 22:8	torn 15:13 21:6 24:24	we're 13:11 14:19 15:14
22:3 29:8 30:25 32:1,23	tear-down 15:24 22:24	toshiba 5:6,6,- 10:2,7	16:2 17:8 18:25 21:22
34:11	27:3 28:5	total 25:11	22:14,17 24:25 25:20,22
somewhat 23:15	tear-downs 28:22	transcript 17:2	26:1,2,16 31:16 33:20
sony 2:-,22 3:-, 8:-,14	technology 26:17,17	transition 14:1 35:2	we've 13:24 14:8,10 21:4
12:7,10,14,19	telephone 1:17 13:4	transitioned 34:16	,6,7,11,24 22:5,6,7,7,15
sorry 10:12 14:16 23:5	34:10 35:13	try 20:5 30:5	,18 24:19,23,24 28:5
32:9	television 23:20	trying 27:19	31:1 32:25 34:5
sort 19:10	televisions 23:17,22	tunnell 2:-	weaver 7:3
sound 23:2	24:1	tweek 6:3	week 30:23
source 31:11	tell 9:24 13:13 20:16	type 24:10	week's 25:14
span 19:2	24:20 27:5,20 28:2,14,18	types 22:6	weeks 33:11 34:8
speak 13:21 17:4,20	telling 28:16 31:19	typically 11:17	weigh 25:6
18:10 22:13 27:19 35:8	tells 20:10	U	weil 3:- 10:19 18:23
speaking 13:17	terms 27:19		22:12 23:7
specific 15:13 17:19	texas 5:-	u.s 31:3	well 9:24 13:3 17:24
18:2 22:7 23:18,20,25	thank 11:3 12:20 20:2	u.s.a 7:12,22	19:20 20:7 21:3,21 24:4
24:6,23 26:5,14 28:6,23	35:7,11	u.s.d.c.j 1:19	26:12 27:7 28:7 30:12
29:11 31:15	thanks 10:14 11:19 13:3	ultimately 14:15	31:6 32:13 34:11 35:9
specifically 14:18 17:5	35:9	unable 15:14 16:3	whether 15:16 21:1,13
27:24	that's 9:17 10:1 14:23	uncover 20:5	,25 24:21 28:18
specified 22:6 26:10	23:10 24:25 27:25 32:20	understand 20:3 22:19	white 6:-
spite 13:6	,22,23	31:19 32:9	who-goes-first 30:17
spivack 12:24	there's 20:17	understanding 20:9	wholesale 22:15
spivak 5:- 8:-	they'd 25:21	27:17	why 9:5 13:13 20:15
spoke 22:12	they're 25:7 27:5 30:13	unilateral 27:6	29:21
squarely 19:15	31:19 32:18	united 1:1 14:6,13,21	wide 21:5
stacie 2:- 9:14	thing 16:12,14 25:12	26:19 30:8	wild 23:1
stargatt 2:- 7:17	27:21	unless 11:18	will 13:20 15:23 18:19
start 9:7,19 20:8,13	things 9:4 17:9 28:6,17	unreasonable 24:8	22:13 35:2
states 1:1 14:6,13,22	30:8 32:3,7	unwillingness 20:18	william 3:-
26:19 30:8	think 13:13,23,25 15:4,5	upset 30:9	williams 5:23 10:4 25:3,3
statute 14:24	16:16,23 17:1,2,10,17	urgency 33:20	,6,23 27:1
stay 18:4,6,7 29:22 32:3	18:19 20:23 21:11 22:4	us 9:13,16 15:23 16:7,25	willing 29:6

Honey v. Audiovox/Apple: Telephone Conference 9/9/2005 10:40:00 AM

wilmington 1:16  
wintek 5:- 6:10 10:3,7  
wireless 2:18 10:21  
within 17:6 25:14 30:23  
without 13:14  
won't 27:15  
wondering 34:7  
woods 2:6 9:14  
work 9:4 34:13,13  
works 20:10 21:2  
wrestle 20:7  
wrong 15:7 20:12,13  
wronged 20:11  
wyatt 7:-

---

Y

---

years 14:24 19:4,19  
20:25 21:18  
yes 11:15 16:16 24:12  
25:5 31:24 34:2  
yet 17:12  
york 3:-, 11,11,-, 4:8,8  
,22 6:4,4,- 7:-, 10:8 11:7  
you've 20:10 28:3 32:17  
young 2:- 7:17 12:2  
yourself 11:19